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United Nations

Resolutions

adopted by the General Assembly during its fifty-first session

Volume I

17 September – 18 December 1996

General Assembly

Official Records • Fifty-first Session

Supplement No. 49 (A/51/49)

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NOTE

The resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly are identified as follows:

Regular sessions

Until the thirtieth regular session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed by a roman numeral in parentheses indicating the session (for example: resolution 3363 (XXX)). When several resolutions were adopted under the same number, each of them was identified by a capital letter placed between the two numerals (for example: resolution 3367 A (XXX), resolutions 3411 A and B (XXX), resolutions 3419 A to D (XXX)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the thirty-first session, as part of the new system adopted for symbols of General Assembly documents, resolutions and decisions have been identified by an arabic numeral, indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution 31/1, decision 31/301). When several resolutions or decisions were adopted under the same number, each of them has been identified by a capital letter placed after the two numerals (for example: resolution 31/16 A, resolutions 31/6 A and B, decisions 31/406 A to E).

Special sessions

Until the seventh special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letter "S" and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 3362 (S-VII)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the eighth special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letter "S" and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution S-8/1, decision S-8/11).

Emergency special sessions

Until the fifth emergency special session, the resolutions of the General Assembly were identified by an arabic numeral followed, in parentheses, by the letters "ES" and a roman numeral indicating the session (for example: resolution 2252 (ES-V)). The decisions were not numbered.

Since the sixth emergency special session, resolutions and decisions have been identified by the letters "ES" and an arabic numeral indicating the session, followed by an oblique stroke and another arabic numeral (for example: resolution ES-6/1, decision ES-6/11).

In each of the series described above, the numbering follows the order of adoption.

* * *

The present volume contains the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly from 17 September to 18 December 1996. Decisions adopted by the Assembly during that period as well as resolutions and decisions adopted subsequently during the fifty-first session will be issued separately.

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CONTENTS

Section *Page*

I. Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee 1

II. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the First Committee 70

III. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) 112

IV. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Second Committee 140

V. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Third Committee 179

VI. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee 276

VII. Resolutions adopted on the reports of the Sixth Committee 325

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ANNEXES

I. Allocation of agenda items 350

II. Check-list of resolutions 361

I. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO A MAIN COMMITTEE

CONTENTS

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/1	Observer status for the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) in the General Assembly	4
51/4	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States	4
51/5	Universal Congress on the Panama Canal	5
51/6	Observer status for the International Seabed Authority in the General Assembly	6
51/7	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union	6
51/8	International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters	6
51/9	Credentials of representatives to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly	
	Resolution A	8
	Resolution B	8
51/10	Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency	8
51/11	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee	10
51/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community	11
51/17	Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba	12
51/18	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference	13
51/19	Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic	14
51/20	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States	15
51/21	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization	17
51/22	Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion	18
51/23	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	18
51/24	Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat	19
51/25	Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat	20
51/26	Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine	20
51/27	Jerusalem	21
51/28	The Syrian Golan	22
51/29	The Middle East peace process	22

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/30	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions	
	A. Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	23
	B. Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia	25
	C. Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon	26
	D. Assistance to Mozambique	26
	E. Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti	27
	F. Special emergency economic assistance to the Comoros	28
	G. Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia	29
	H. International assistance to Rwanda for the reintegration of returning refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development	30
	I. Emergency assistance to the Sudan	31
51/31	Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies	32
51/32	Mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s	33
51/33	Proclamation of 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day	34
51/34	Law of the sea	34
51/35	Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks	36
51/36	Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing; unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction; and fisheries by-catch and discards	37
51/57	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	39
51/146	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	40
51/147	Dissemination of information on decolonization	42
51/148	Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration	43
51/149	Assistance in mine clearance	43
51/150	Assistance to the Palestinian people	45
51/151	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity	46
51/192	Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Children's Fund	49
51/193	Report of the Security Council	49

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/194	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations	50
51/195	Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security	
	A. Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan	52
	B. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security	53
51/196	The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti	56
51/197	The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development	57
51/198	United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala	60
51/199	United Nations Office of Verification in El Salvador	61
51/200	Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations	62
51/201	Tribute to Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations	62
51/202	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development	62
51/203	The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina	65
51/204	Observer status for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the General Assembly	68
51/205	Proclamation of 21 November as World Television Day	68

51/1. Observer status for the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Considering the importance of the role and activities of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) in the fight against international transborder crime,

Considering also the need that has often been expressed by the United Nations to coordinate, harmonize and strengthen that fight at the international level,

Recalling the discussions of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, organized by the United Nations at Naples from 21 to 23 November 1994, as well as the declarations made by various heads of State and Government at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly,

Desirous of promoting cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol),

Recalling its decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

35th plenary meeting
15 October 1996

51/4. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/5 of 21 October 1994 relating to the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States,[1]

Recalling that the purposes of the United Nations are, *inter alia*, to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends,

Bearing in mind that the Charter of the United Nations provides for the existence of regional arrangements and agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action and whose activities are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling that the Charter of the Organization of American States reaffirms these purposes and principles and provides that that organization is a regional agency under the terms of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction that the third general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of the Organization of American States was held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 and 18 April 1995,

Welcoming the fact that the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States attended the special commemorative meeting of the United Nations on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary,

Expressing its satisfaction at the way in which the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States have been performing their work of coordination between the two bodies,

Recalling its resolutions 47/20 A, 47/20 B, 48/27 B, 49/27 B, 49/5 and 50/86 B of 24 November 1992, 20 April 1993, 8 July 1994, 12 July 1995, 21 October 1994 and 3 April 1996, respectively,

Aware that the effective consolidation of a new international order requires regional action in harmony with that of the United Nations,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his initiative in convening a meeting between the United Nations and the heads of regional organizations on 15 and 16 February 1996, welcomes the participation of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in that meeting, and recommends that similar meetings be held more frequently;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the close cooperation between the two organizations and, in particular, the support which they both gave to the conduct of the parliamentary municipal and presidential elections in Haiti from June to December 1995, and at the joint operations of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti;

3. *Also expresses its satisfaction* at the support given by the Electoral Observer Mission in the general elections in Nicaragua held on 20 October 1996, when the United Nations system also provided technical assistance;

4. *Further expresses its satisfaction* at the close cooperation between the two organizations in the observation and verification of the electoral process, and recognizes the effectiveness of that cooperation when it is requested by national authorities;

5. *Welcomes* the meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, as well as the regular

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[1] A/51/297 and Add.1.

meetings between their representatives throughout the period under review;

6. *Also welcomes* the signature on 17 April 1995 of the Collaboration Agreement between the United Nations and the Organization of American States;

7. *Emphasizes* that the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States should be in accordance with their respective mandates, scope and composition and should take place in forms that are suited to each specific situation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

8. *Recommends* that general meetings between representatives of the United Nations system and the Organization of American States be held when deemed necessary to continue to review and appraise progress, and that sectoral and focal point meetings be held on areas of priority or mutually agreed issues, continuing with the modality of operating through the focal points already established;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Secretary-General in the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States, and expresses the hope that he will continue to strengthen the mechanism for cooperation between the two organizations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States".

40th plenary meeting
24 October 1996

51/5. Universal Congress on the Panama Canal

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/12 of 7 November 1995 supporting the convening of the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal, which is to be held at Panama City from 7 to 10 September 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/12,[2]

Taking into account resolution 1376 (XXVI-0/96) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States entitled "The Panama Canal in the Twenty-first Century" and resolution 1379 (XXVI-0/96) on the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal, both adopted on 6 June 1996, in which, *inter alia*, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States noted with satisfaction the harmonious transition process in which the Governments of Panama and the United States of America are participating, through their diplomatic missions, the Panama Canal Commission, the Interoceanic Region Authority and the Transition Commission,

Having considered the letter dated 27 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[3] outlining the work being done by the Government of Panama in connection with the holding of the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal and indicating the progress made by the Organizing Commission for that Congress, under the direction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Bearing in mind that on 7 September 1977 the Panama Canal Treaty and the Treaty concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal, known as the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, were signed in Washington, D.C., which stipulate that, at noon on 31 December 1999, the Canal, including all improvements, is to come under the control of the Republic of Panama,

Acknowledging the importance that the international community attaches to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the positive implications that the strengthening of the nuclear-weapon-free regime established by that Treaty has for the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal,

Welcoming the fact that, in anticipation of the holding of the Congress, Panama has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[4] universally recognized as the framework for the adoption of national, regional and global measures in maritime matters, in harmony with chapter 17 of Agenda 21[5] adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming the utility of the Panama Canal for international maritime transport and the growth of the world economy, and the need to tackle the problems of interoceanic communication in the twenty-first century,

Noting with appreciation the activities being undertaken in various spheres by Governments, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of the holding of the Universal Congress,

Recognizing that the next stages of preparation and organization of the Congress require increased efforts and the availability of greater resources,

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[2] A/51/281.

[3] A/51/477.

[4] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/12;[2]

2. *Reiterates its firm support* for the initiative of the Government of Panama, and urges it to continue to intensify its efforts to organize the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal at Panama City from 7 to 10 September 1997;

3. *Renews its appeal* to Member States generously to assist the Government of Panama, and calls upon intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to do likewise;

4. *Again urges* the competent organs, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Maritime Organization, to make every effort to provide assistance from within existing resources for the holding of the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Universal Congress on the Panama Canal".

40th plenary meeting
24 October 1996

51/6. Observer status for the International Seabed Authority in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Aware of the importance of the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982[6] and of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[7] and their uniform consistent application, as well as of the growing need to promote and facilitate international cooperation on the law of the sea and ocean affairs at the global, regional and subregional levels,

Noting the decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority at its resumed second session to seek observer status for the Authority at the United Nations in order to enable it to participate in the deliberations of the General Assembly,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Seabed Authority to participate in the deliberations of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

40th plenary meeting
24 October 1996

51/7. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/15 of 15 November 1995, in which it requested the Secretary-General to conclude an agreement on cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[8] transmitting the text of the cooperation agreement signed on 24 July 1996,

Stressing its desire to strengthen existing cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and of giving it a new and adequate framework,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusion on 24 July 1996 of the cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

2. *Considers* that the signature of the agreement constitutes an important step for increased and strengthened cooperation between the two organizations;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union";

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on various aspects of cooperation that have taken place between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in implementation of the cooperation agreement.

41st plenary meeting
25 October 1996

51/8. International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/15 of 20 November 1990, 46/109 A and B of 17 December 1991, 47/118 of 18 December 1992, 48/161 of 20 December 1993, 49/137 of 19 December 1994 and 50/132 of 20 December 1995 concerning the situation in Central America,

Recalling also its resolutions 47/169 of 22 December 1992, 48/8 of 22 October 1993, 49/16 of 17 November 1994 and 50/85 of 15 December 1995 concerning the item entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters", in which it requested the international community to continue providing support to Nicaragua, taking into account the exceptional circumstances faced by that country, and requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with the

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[6] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[7] Resolution 48/263, annex.

[8] A/51/402.

Nicaraguan authorities, to provide the assistance necessary in the process of consolidation of peace,

Deeply concerned at the fact that the recent natural disasters that have occurred in Nicaragua, the burden of the foreign debt, despite its reduction and renegotiation achieved with the collaboration of the international community, and the harmful effects on its economy of the prolonged periods of rain and floods that have afflicted the Central American region impede the efforts being made by Nicaragua to overcome the consequences of war within the framework of a democracy and under the macroeconomic conditions already achieved,

Deeply concerned also at the serious effects of hurricane César, which created an emergency in the affected areas, as well as the urgent requirement for humanitarian assistance and the need to restore the normal conditions of the population, recognized in its resolution 50/244 of 29 August 1996,

Taking into account the central role of all parties in Nicaragua, in particular the Government and the Nicaraguan people, in seeking lasting solutions to consolidate the achievements of their transition,

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the Support Group for Nicaragua, which, under the coordination of the Secretary-General, continues to play an active role in supporting that country's efforts towards economic recovery and social development,

Recognizing the efforts of the international community and the Government of Nicaragua to provide relief to the persons affected by the aftermath of the war and recent natural disasters,

Recognizing also the intensive efforts by the Government of Nicaragua to promote a sustained economic recovery and the considerable progress made in securing a broad social consensus by means of a process of national dialogue for the adoption of measures to lay the foundations for reconstruction and economic and social development through a comprehensive transition process that will be further consolidated with the holding of free and democratic elections in October 1996,

Taking into account the commitments adopted by the Central American Presidents at the Central American Environment Summit for Sustainable Development, through the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America,[9] and, in this context, the special attention required by Nicaragua because of its exceptional situation in order that those important commitments may begin to be implemented,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures adopted pursuant to resolution 50/85,[10]

1. *Commends* the efforts made by the international community, including the organs and organizations of the United Nations system, to supplement the action undertaken by the Government of Nicaragua and by other parties concerned in the task of rehabilitation and national reconstruction as well as in providing emergency assistance;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to support the efforts of the Government of Nicaragua in the affected areas, and invites Member States, organizations, specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations to continue to provide assistance and to respond generously to the appeal issued by Nicaragua;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General for his report on the measures adopted pursuant to resolution 50/85;[10]

4. *Encourages* the Government of Nicaragua to continue its efforts to bring about reconstruction and national reconciliation, in particular those related to poverty alleviation, economic and social development and the solution of property problems, with a view to the consolidation of a stable democracy;

5. *Requests* all Member States, the international funding agencies and regional, intraregional and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, in a broad and flexible form, support to Nicaragua at the required levels, giving particular attention to that country's exceptional circumstances so as to stimulate a greater effort in the process of reconstruction, social investment, stabilization and development;

6. *Expresses its gratitude* to Member States, the international agencies, regional and intraregional organizations and, in particular, the Secretary-General, for their support for the explicit request of the Government of Nicaragua in connection with the technical cooperation and assistance needed in support of the general elections in Nicaragua in 1996;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system and in close cooperation with the Nicaraguan authorities, to continue to provide, within existing resources, all necessary assistance to activities for the reconstruction, stabilization and development of Nicaragua and to continue to ensure the timely, comprehensive, flexible and effective formulation and coordination of programmes of the United Nations system in Nicaragua, given the importance of those activities for the consolidation of peace, democracy and sustainable development;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide Nicaragua, at the request of its Government, within existing resources, with all possible assistance to support the consolidation of peace, democracy and sustainable development in such areas as caring for displaced persons, land ownership and land tenure in rural areas, appropriate care for war-disabled persons, mine clearance and the overcoming of difficulties in the restoration of the productive areas of the

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[9] See A/49/580-S/1994/1217, annex I; *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*, document S/1994/1217.

[10] A/51/263.

country, and, in general, a process of sustained economic and social recovery and development so that the peace and democracy already achieved become irreversible;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the action taken to implement the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to consider this issue on a biennial basis, under the item entitled "Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions".

41st plenary meeting
25 October 1996

51/9. Credentials of representatives to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered the first report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,[11]

Approves the first report of the Credentials Committee.

43rd plenary meeting
29 October 1996

B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the second report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,[12]

Approves the second report of the Credentials Committee.

87th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/10. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly,

Having received the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the General Assembly for the year 1995,[13]

Noting the statement of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency of 28 October 1996,[14] in which he provided additional information on the main developments in the activities of the Agency during 1996,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Agency in promoting the further application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as envisaged in the statute of the Agency and in accordance with the inalienable right of States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[15] and other relevant internationally legally binding agreements that have concluded relevant safeguards agreements with the Agency to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II of the Treaty, with other relevant articles and with the objectives and purposes of the Treaty,

Conscious of the importance of the work of the Agency in the implementation of the safeguards provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other international treaties, conventions and agreements designed to achieve similar objectives, as well as in ensuring, as far as it is able, that the assistance provided by the Agency or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose, as stated in article II of its statute,

Reaffirming that the Agency is the competent authority responsible for verifying and assuring, in accordance with the statute of the Agency and the Agency's safeguards system, compliance with its safeguards agreements with States parties undertaken in fulfilment of their obligations under article III, paragraph 1, of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and also reaffirming that nothing should be done to undermine the authority of the Agency in this regard and that States parties that have concerns regarding non-compliance with the safeguards agreement of the Treaty by the States parties should direct such concerns, along with supporting evidence and information, to the Agency to consider, investigate, draw conclusions and decide on necessary actions in accordance with its mandate,

Noting the statement by the President of the fortieth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency, issued under item 23 concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East, that:

> "The General Conference requests the Director General to invite experts from the Middle East and other areas to a technical workshop on safeguards, verification technologies, and related experience. It calls on the Director General to commence with preparations, in consultation with the parties concerned, with a view to developing an agenda and modalities that would help ensure a successful workshop",

Again stressing the need for the highest standards of safety in the design and operation of nuclear installations and in peaceful nuclear activities so as to minimize risks to life, health and the environment,

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[11] A/51/548, para. 19.

[12] A/51/548/Add.1, para. 11.

[13] International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Annual Report for 1995* (Austria, July 1996) (GC(40)/8); transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note by the Secretary-General (A/51/307).

[14] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Plenary meetings*, 42nd meeting, and corrigendum.

[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

Considering that an expansion of technical cooperation activities relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will contribute to the well-being of the peoples of the world, recognizing the special needs of the developing countries for technical assistance from the Agency and the importance of funding in order to benefit effectively from the transfer and application of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes as well as from the contribution of nuclear energy to their economic development, and desiring that the Agency's resources for technical cooperation activities be assured and sufficient,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Agency on nuclear energy, applications of nuclear methods and techniques, nuclear safety, radiological protection and radioactive waste management, including its work directed towards assisting developing countries in all these fields,

Taking note of the report of the Director General to the General Conference[16] on the developments related to the nuclear-weapons programme of Iraq, of his reports on the Agency's twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth on-site inspections in Iraq[17] and of resolution GC(40)/RES/21 of 20 September 1996 of the General Conference,[18]

Taking note also of resolutions GOV/2711 of 21 March 1994 and GOV/2742 of 10 June 1994 of the Board of Governors and GC(40)/RES/4 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in connection with the implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[19] the statements of the President of the Security Council of 31 March,[20] 30 May[21] and 4 November[22] 1994 and the Board of Governors' authorization, on 11 November 1994, to the Director General, to carry out all the tasks requested of the Agency in the statement by the President of the Security Council of 4 November 1994,

Bearing in mind resolutions GC(40)/RES/2 on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, GC(40)/RES/10 on the Convention on Nuclear Safety, GC(40)/RES/11 on a convention on the safety of radioactive waste management, GC(40)/RES/12 on measures to resolve international radioactive waste management issues: establishing predisposal waste demonstration centres, GC(40)/RES/13 on the strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities, GC(40)/RES/14 on a plan for producing potable water economically, GC(40)/RES/15 on extensive use of isotope hydrology for water resources management, GC(40)/RES/16 on strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system, GC(40)/RES/17 on measures against the illicit trafficking in nuclear material and other radiation sources, GC(40)/RES/18 on the staffing of the Agency's secretariat, GC(40)/RES/20 on the amendment of article VI of the statute relating to the membership of the Board of Governors, GC(40)/RES/21 on the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq, and GC(40)/RES/22 on application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East, adopted on 20 September 1996 by the General Conference of the Agency at its fortieth regular session,

Noting the statement by the President of the fortieth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency, issued under item 19(*b*) concerning the composition of regional groups, that:

> "The General Conference takes note of the report of the Director General on the composition of regional groups under the agenda item entitled 'Amendment of article VI of the Statute', as contained in the attachment to GC(40)/11. It reiterates the principle of the sovereign equality of all member States of the Agency, as provided for in article IV.C of the Statute. It affirms that this principle requires that each member State of the Agency be within one of the areas listed in article VI.A.1 of the Statute. Recalling draft resolution GC(39)/COM.5/10 (19 September 1995) and resolution GC(39)/RES/22 (22 September 1995), the Conference requests that the Chairman of the Board of Governors consult with member States not yet listed in a regional area, as well as with other member States, including representatives of the regional areas, and that he report for consideration at the forty-first session of the General Conference specific proposals to include each member State within the appropriate area at the time of the Conference in September 1997",

Bearing in mind resolution GC(40)/RES/17 on measures against illicit trafficking in nuclear materials and other radioactive sources, recognizing the importance of measures against illicit trafficking of nuclear material and, in this regard, further recognizing the importance of the programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in nuclear material, agreed upon by the participants in the Moscow Nuclear Safety and Security Summit of April 1996,

Also bearing in mind resolution GC(40)/RES/19 on women in the secretariat adopted on 20 September 1996 by the General Conference of the Agency, calling on the Director General to further integrate the Platform for Action developed at the Fourth World Conference on Women into the Agency's relevant policies and programmes,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency;[13]

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[16] GC(40)/13.

[17] GOV/INF/781 and 783.

[18] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Fortieth Regular Session*, 16-20 September 1996 (GC(40)/RES/DEC(1996)).

[19] International Atomic Energy Agency, INFCIRC/403.

[20] *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1994*, document S/PRST/1994/13.

[21] Ibid., document S/PRST/1994/28.

[22] Ibid., document S/PRST/1994/64.

2. *Affirms its confidence* in the role of the Agency in the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;

3. *Welcomes* the measures and decisions taken by the Agency to maintain and strengthen the effectiveness and cost efficiency of the safeguards system in conformity with the Agency's statute, in particular, welcomes the establishment by the Board of Governors of a committee which began its work in July 1996 and is tasked with the drafting of a model protocol in order to strengthen the effectiveness and to improve the efficiency of the nuclear safeguards system and thereby reinforce and improve the Agency's capacity to detect any undeclared nuclear activities, and calls upon this committee to make every effort to bring its work to a successful conclusion at the earliest possible date;

4. *Urges* all States to strive for effective and harmonious international cooperation in carrying out the work of the Agency, pursuant to its statute, in promoting the use of nuclear energy and the application of the necessary measures to strengthen further the safety of nuclear installations and to minimize risks to life, health and the environment, in strengthening technical assistance and cooperation for developing countries, and in ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards systems of the Agency;

5. *Welcomes* the measures and decisions taken by the Agency to strengthen and fund its technical cooperation activities which should contribute to achieving sustainable development in developing countries, and calls upon States to cooperate in implementing the measures and decisions pursuant thereto;

6. *Commends* the Director General and the secretariat of the Agency for their continuing, impartial efforts to implement the safeguards agreement still in force between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including their efforts to monitor the freeze of specified facilities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as requested by the Security Council, expresses concern over the continuing non-compliance of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the safeguards agreement, and urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate fully with the Agency in the implementation of the safeguards agreement and take all steps the Agency may deem necessary to preserve all information relevant to verifying the accuracy and completeness of the initial report of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the inventory of nuclear material subject to safeguards until the Democratic People's Republic of Korea comes into full compliance with its safeguards agreement;

7. *Also commends* the Director General of the Agency and his staff for their strenuous efforts in the implementation of Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) of 3 April, 707 (1991) of 15 August and 715 (1991) of 11 October 1991, and while noting that Iraq has adopted over the last twelve months a more constructive approach, expresses concern that Iraq failed to provide immediate access on 7 July 1996 to the Agency's Action Team and that it has previously withheld from the Agency information about its nuclear weapons programme in violation of its obligations under relevant Council resolutions, and in this context stresses the need for Iraq to cooperate fully with the Agency to resolve the remaining inconsistency concerning the full, final and complete declaration in achieving the implementation of the relevant Council resolutions, and stresses that the Agency's Action Team will continue to exercise its right to investigate further any aspects of the past nuclear weapons capability of Iraq, in particular as regards any further relevant information necessary to complete the record of the nuclear weapons programme of Iraq that it may still be withholding from the Agency;

8. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 24 October 1996 of the Convention on Nuclear Safety[23] and appeals to all States to become parties to it so that it obtains the widest possible adherence, and expresses its satisfaction that a preparatory meeting of the contracting parties will be convened at a date to be agreed upon, but not later than April 1997;

9. *Also welcomes* the measures taken by the Agency in support of efforts to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear materials and other radioactive sources and, in this context, calls upon other States to join the programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in nuclear material agreed upon by the participants at the Moscow Nuclear Safety and Security Summit of April 1996;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the open-ended Group of Technical and Legal Experts on a Convention on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management established by the Board of Governors of the Agency and expresses the hope that the outstanding issues will be resolved in a spirit of compromise so as to allow timely completion of the preparatory work and adoption of a convention in the near future;

11. *Notes with satisfaction* the substantial progress achieved in the negotiations to strengthen the international regime of liability and compensation for damage arising from a nuclear incident, in particular, by amending the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage[24] as well as by adopting a convention on supplementary compensation, and expresses the hope that the diplomatic conference for that purpose will soon be convened;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Director General of the Agency the records of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly relating to the activities of the Agency.

43rd plenary meeting
29 October 1996

51/11. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/38 of 18 November 1981, 37/8 of 29 October 1982, 38/37 of 5 December 1983, 39/47 of

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[23] International Atomic Energy Agency, INFCIRC/449.

[24] Ibid., INFCIRC/500.

10 December 1984, 40/60 of 9 December 1985, 41/5 of 17 October 1986, 43/1 of 17 October 1988, 45/4 of 16 October 1990, 47/6 of 21 October 1992 and 49/8 of 25 October 1994,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee,[25]

Having heard the statement made on 4 November 1996 by the Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee[26] on the steps taken by the Consultative Committee to ensure continuing, close and effective cooperation between the two organizations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[25]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the continuing efforts of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee towards strengthening the role of the United Nations and its various organs, including the International Court of Justice, through programmes and initiatives undertaken by the Consultative Committee;

3. *Also notes with satisfaction* the commendable progress achieved towards enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the Consultative Committee in wider areas;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the decision of the Consultative Committee to participate actively in the programmes of the United Nations Decade of International Law and programmes on environment and sustainable development;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Consultative Committee;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee".

50th plenary meeting
4 November 1996

51/16. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/8 of 16 October 1991, by which it granted observer status to the Caribbean Community, and 49/141 of 20 December 1994,

Noting with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community,[27]

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations contemplates the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters as are appropriate for regional action and other activities consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Taking into account the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace"[28] and "An Agenda for Development"[29] and the related consultations within the United Nations, including the various working groups on those subjects,

Taking note of the final communiqué of the twenty-second meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs, held at Kingston on 13 and 14 May 1996,[30] and the final communiqué of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Bridgetown from 3 to 6 July 1996,[31] which, *inter alia*, outlines areas of cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community and stresses the importance of furthering the possible role of the Community in the development of peace and security within the Caribbean region, and expresses appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for promoting this heightened level of cooperation,

Recalling the request made of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, to promote meetings between their representatives for consultations on policies, projects, measures and procedures that will facilitate and broaden cooperation and coordination between the two organizations,

Welcoming the inter-agency consultations between the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States and the United Nations on the first conference on governance and development in the Caribbean,

Affirming the need to strengthen the cooperation that already exists between entities of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community in the areas of economic and social development, as well as of political and humanitarian affairs,

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[25] A/51/360.

[26] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Plenary meetings*, 50th meeting, and corrigendum.

[27] A/51/299.

[28] A/47/277-S/24111; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992*, document S/24111.

[29] A/48/935.

[30] See A/51/299, para. 9.

[31] A/51/295, annex.

Convinced of the need for the coordinated utilization of available resources to promote common objectives of the two organizations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community,[27] as well as his efforts to strengthen that cooperation;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue taking the necessary measures for promoting and expanding cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community in order to increase the capacity of the two organizations to attain their objectives;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, or their representatives, to hold consultations with a view to signing an agreement on cooperation between the two organizations;

4. *Notes* the areas of cooperation approved by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in the final communiqué of the twenty-second meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs,[30] namely, follow-up to the global conferences; the advancement of the new international human order; law of the sea; follow-up and implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the development of poverty reduction programmes; peace-keeping; diplomatic training; governance and development in the Caribbean; and the strengthening of the Regional Secretariat Information Base;

5. *Also notes* the special role played by States members of the Caribbean Community in the restoration of democracy in Haiti and in its participation in the United Nations Mission in Haiti;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, to assist in furthering the development of peace and security within the Caribbean region;

7. *Recommends* that the first general meeting between representatives of the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions and of the United Nations system be held in 1997 for the purpose of holding consultations on projects, measures and procedures to facilitate and strengthen cooperation between those organizations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, or their representatives, to encourage inter-agency, sectoral and focal point meetings on areas of priority or mutually agreed issues;

9. *Urges* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community in order to initiate, maintain and increase consultations and programmes with the Caribbean Community and its associated institutions in the attainment of their objectives, and in this connection welcomes the special relationship between the Caribbean Community and the United Nations Development Programme;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community".

56th plenary meeting
11 November 1996

51/17. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

The General Assembly,

Determined to encourage strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments,

Recalling the statements of the heads of State or Government at the Ibero-American Summits concerning the need to eliminate the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another which affect the free flow of international trade,

Concerned about the continued promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations, such as the one promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as the "Helms-Burton Act", the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation,

Taking note of declarations and resolutions of different intergovernmental forums, bodies and Governments which express the rejection by the international community and public opinion of the promulgation and application of regulations of the kind referred to above,

Recalling its resolutions 47/19 of 24 November 1992, 48/16 of 3 November 1993, 49/9 of 26 October 1994 and 50/10 of 2 November 1995,

Concerned that, since the adoption of its resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9 and 50/10, further measures of that nature aimed at strengthening and extending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba continue to be promulgated and applied, and concerned also about the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[32] on the implementation of resolution 50/10;

2. *Reiterates its call* on all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the present resolution in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law which, *inter alia*, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation;

3. *Once again urges* States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

57th plenary meeting
12 November 1996

51/18. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/4 of 22 October 1982, 38/4 of 28 October 1983, 39/7 of 8 November 1984, 40/4 of 25 October 1985, 41/3 of 16 October 1986, 42/4 of 15 October 1987, 43/2 of 17 October 1988, 44/8 of 18 October 1989, 45/9 of 25 October 1990, 46/13 of 28 October 1991, 47/18 of 23 November 1992, 48/24 of 24 November 1993, 49/15 of 15 November 1994 and 50/17 of 20 November 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference,[33]

Taking into account the desire of both organizations to continue to cooperate closely in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and technical fields and in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights and economic and technical development,

Recalling the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage the activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations, its funds and programmes and specialized agencies and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, its subsidiary organs and its specialized and affiliated institutions,

Noting also the encouraging progress made in the nine priority areas of cooperation, as well as in the identification of other areas of cooperation,

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its organs and institutions contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace",[34] in particular section VII, concerning cooperation with regional arrangements and organizations, and the "Supplement to An Agenda for Peace",[35]

Noting with appreciation the determination of both organizations to strengthen further the existing cooperation by developing specific proposals in the designated priority areas of cooperation, as well as in the political field,

Welcoming the results of the general meeting of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions, held at Geneva from 26 to 28 June 1996,

Welcoming also the high-level meeting convened by the Secretary-General on 15 February 1996 of regional and other intergovernmental organizations, including the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with which the United Nations has cooperated in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[33]

2. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the general meeting of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the active participation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the work of the United Nations towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue cooperation in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security,

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[32] A/51/355 and Add.1.

[33] A/51/381.

[34] A/47/277-S/24111; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992*, document S/24111.

[35] A/50/60-S/1995/1; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1995*, document S/1995/1.

disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights, social and economic development and technical cooperation;

5. *Welcomes* the proposals of the general meeting of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations in areas of common concern and to review the ways and means for enhancing the actual mechanisms of such cooperation;

6. *Welcomes also* the efforts of the secretariats of the two organizations to strengthen information exchange, coordination and cooperation between them in areas of mutual interest in the political field, and their ongoing consultations with a view to developing the modalities of such cooperation;

7. *Welcomes further* the periodic high-level meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as well as between senior secretariat officials of the two organizations, and encourages their participation in important meetings of the two organizations;

8. *Encourages* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with the subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, particularly by negotiating cooperation agreements, and invites them to multiply the contacts and meetings of the focal points for cooperation in priority areas of interest to the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

9. *Urges* the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, especially the lead agencies, to provide increased technical and other forms of assistance to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions in order to enhance cooperation;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;

11. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his initiative to convene a high-level meeting of regional and other intergovernmental organizations on 15 February 1996, and looks forward to similar meetings in the future;

12. *Further expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and expresses the hope that he will continue to strengthen the mechanisms of coordination between the two organizations;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the state of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference".

58th plenary meeting
14 November 1996

51/19. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986, in which it solemnly declared the Atlantic Ocean, in the region between Africa and South America, the "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic",

Recalling also its subsequent resolutions on the matter, including resolution 45/36 of 27 November 1990, in which it reaffirmed the determination of the States of the zone to enhance and accelerate their cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, cultural and other spheres,

Reaffirming that the questions of peace and security and those of development are interrelated and inseparable, and that cooperation for peace and development among States of the region will promote the objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Aware of the importance that the States of the zone attach to the environment of the region, and recognizing the threat that pollution from any source poses to the marine and coastal environment, its ecological balance and its resources,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the purposes and objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic as a basis for the promotion of cooperation among the countries of the region;

2. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives and with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the Organization, particularly action which may create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[36] submitted in accordance with its resolution 50/18 of 27 November 1995;

4. *Recalls* the agreement reached at the third meeting of the States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, held at Brasilia in 1994, to encourage

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[36] A/51/458.

democracy and political pluralism and, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[37] to promote and defend all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to cooperate towards the achievement of those goals;

5. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the holding of the fourth meeting of the States members of the zone at Somerset West, South Africa, on 1 and 2 April 1996, and takes note of the Final Declaration, the decision on drug trafficking, the decision on the protection of the marine environment and the decision on illegal fishing activities in the zone, adopted at the meeting;

6. *Welcomes* the progress towards the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco),[38] and the conclusion of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba);[39]

7. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Angola to implement the Lusaka Protocol,[40] expresses its deep concern at the delay in fully implementing the Lusaka Protocol and calls upon the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola to fulfil immediately the tasks enumerated in the "Mediation Document" formulated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in consultation with the three observer States, as contained in Security Council resolution 1075 (1996) of 11 October 1996;

8. *Reaffirms* its willingness to contribute by all means at its disposal to an effective and lasting peace in Angola;

9. *Urges* the international community to fulfil expeditiously its pledges to provide assistance to facilitate the rehabilitation of the Angolan national economy and the resettlement of displaced persons, and stresses the importance of such assistance at this time in order to consolidate the gains in the peace process;

10. *Welcomes* the outcome of the summit meeting of the Economic Community of West African States Committee of Nine on Liberia, which revalidated the Abuja Agreement[41] and, *inter alia*, foresees the holding of democratic elections in Liberia by 30 May 1997;

11. *Commends and encourages* Nigeria in its capacity as chair of the Committee of Nine, as well as all the members of the Economic Community of West African States, to pursue positive efforts towards peace in Liberia, and requests the international community to support the endeavours of the new chairperson of the Council of State of the Liberian National Transitional Government and to provide the necessary assistance to the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group to enable it to carry out its mandate;

12. *Commends* the efforts of Member States and humanitarian organizations to render humanitarian assistance to Angola and Liberia, and urges them to continue to provide and to increase such assistance;

13. *Affirms* the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions and its determination to preserve the region for all peaceful purposes and activities protected by international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[42]

14. *Welcomes* the offer by Argentina to host the fifth meeting of the States members of the zone;

15. *Requests* the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance which States of the zone may seek in their joint efforts to implement the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, taking into account, *inter alia*, the views expressed by Member States;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic".

58th plenary meeting
14 November 1996

51/20. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States,[43]

Recalling the decision of the Council of the League of Arab States that it considers the League a regional organization within the meaning of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations,

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[37] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[38] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

[39] See A/50/426.

[40] *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*, document S/1995/1441.

[41] Ibid., *Fiftieth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1995*, document S/1995/742.

[42] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[43] A/51/380 and Add.1

Noting the desire of both organizations to consolidate, develop and enhance further the ties existing between them in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and administrative fields,

Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace",[44] in particular section VII, concerning cooperation with regional arrangements and organizations, and the "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace",[45]

Convinced that the maintenance and further strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States contribute to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Convinced also of the need for more efficient and coordinated utilization of available economic and financial resources to promote common objectives of the two organizations,

Recognizing the need for closer cooperation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in realizing the goals and objectives of both organizations,

Welcoming the second meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, held on 15 and 16 February 1996,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[43]

2. *Commends* the continued efforts of the League of Arab States to promote multilateral cooperation among Arab States, and requests the United Nations system to continue to lend its support;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the follow-up action taken by him to implement the proposals adopted at the meetings between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, including the last meeting held at Vienna in 1995;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, within their respective fields of competence, to intensify further their cooperation towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the strengthening of international peace and security, economic development, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and administrative fields;

6. *Calls upon* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system:

(*a*) To continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and among themselves, as well as with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, in the follow-up of multilateral proposals aimed at strengthening and expanding cooperation in all fields between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

(*b*) To maintain and increase contacts and improve the mechanism of consultation with the counterpart programmes, organizations and agencies concerned regarding projects and programmes, in order to facilitate their implementation;

(*c*) To associate whenever possible with organizations and institutions of the League of Arab States in the execution and implementation of development projects in the Arab region;

(*d*) To inform the Secretary-General, not later than 15 June 1997, of the progress of their cooperation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, in particular the follow-up action taken on the multilateral and bilateral proposals adopted at the previous meetings between the two organizations;

7. *Also calls upon* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to intensify cooperation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in the following priority sectors, namely, energy, rural development, desertification and green belts, training and vocational training, technology, environment, and information and documentation;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to encourage periodic consultation between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to review and strengthen coordination mechanisms with a view to accelerating implementation of, and follow-up action on, multilateral projects, proposals and recommendations adopted at the meetings between the two organizations;

9. *Decides* that, in order to enhance cooperation and for the purpose of review and appraisal of progress, a general meeting between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States should take place once every two years, and inter-agency sectoral meetings should be organized regularly on areas of priority and wide importance in the development of the Arab States, on the basis of agreement between the

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[44] A/47/277-S/24111; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992*, document S/24111.

[45] A/50/60-S/1995/1; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1995*, document S/1995/1.

counterpart programmes of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

10. *Recommends* that the next general meeting on cooperation between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations be held during 1997;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States".

60th plenary meeting
19 November 1996

51/21. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/2 of 13 October 1993, by which it granted observer status to the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also its resolution 50/1 of 12 October 1995, in which it affirmed the need to strengthen the cooperation that already exists between the entities of the United Nations system and the Economic Cooperation Organization in the areas of economic and social development,

Recalling further that the Charter of the United Nations provides for the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters as maintenance of international peace and security and economic cooperation as are appropriate for regional action, provided that their activities are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind that the Treaty of Izmir, signed at Izmir, Turkey, on 12 March 1977, later revised at Ashgabat on 11 May 1996 and signed at Izmir on 14 September 1996, created a permanent body for intraregional cooperation, consultation and coordination in order to enhance economic, social and cultural development,

Taking note of the Ashgabat Declaration issued at the Fourth Summit Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization at Ashgabat on 14 May 1996,

Taking note also of the recent measures by the Governments members of the Economic Cooperation Organization to revitalize that organization through the adoption of a new charter of the organization and related documents on its reorganization and restructuring,

Convinced that the maintenance and further strengthening of the cooperation between the United Nations system and the Economic Cooperation Organization promote the implementation of the goals and principles of the Organization,

1. *Takes note* of the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/1 on cooperation between the two organizations and endorsing the cooperative arrangements entered into by the Economic Cooperation Organization with various entities of the United Nations system for joint efforts towards the implementation of the economic projects and programmes of the Economic Cooperation Organization;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Secretary-General[46] on the implementation of resolution 50/1, and invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue his efforts, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization, to promote and expand cooperation and coordination between the two secretariats in order to increase the capacity of the two organizations to attain their common objectives;

3. *Welcomes* the inauguration of the Tejan-Sarakhs-Mashad railway line, which illustrates the significance of the alternative road and railway links which exist or are being developed in order to provide the land-locked countries of the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization further access to the seaport facilities of the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Caspian, Black, Mediterranean and Aegean Seas;

4. *Urges* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to initiate, maintain and increase consultation and programmes with the Economic Cooperation Organization and its associated institutions in the attainment of their objectives;

5. *Takes note* of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 52/11 of 24 April 1996[47] on the strengthening of subregional economic cooperation among the south-western countries members of the Commission, including the countries members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, in which the Commission is called upon to promote economic and technical cooperation in trade, investment and transport and communications among countries members of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the request therein to the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session in 1998 on the progress in the implementation of that resolution;

6. *Calls upon* the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as the regional arm of the United Nations having all States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization as its members, to assume a specific role in promoting cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization;

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[46] A/51/265 and Add.1.

[47] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 16* (E/1996/36), chap. IV.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization".

67th plenary meeting
27 November 1996

51/22. Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly those which call for the development of friendly relations among nations, and the achievement of cooperation in solving problems of an economic and social character,

Recalling its numerous resolutions in which it called upon the international community to take urgent and effective steps to end coercive economic measures,

Gravely concerned over the recent enactment of extraterritorial coercive economic laws in contravention of the norms of international law and the aims and purposes of the United Nations,

Believing that the prompt elimination of such measures is consistent with the aims and purposes of the United Nations and the relevant provisions of the World Trade Organization,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of every State to economic and social development and to choose the political, economic and social system which it deems most appropriate for the welfare of its people, in accordance with its national plans and policies;

2. *Calls for* the immediate repeal of unilateral extraterritorial laws that impose sanctions on companies and nationals of other States;

3. *Calls upon* all States not to recognize unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures or legislative acts imposed by any State;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion".

67th plenary meeting
27 November 1996

51/23. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 3375 (XXX) and 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, 31/20 of 24 November 1976, 32/40 A of 2 December 1977, 33/28 A and B of 7 December 1978, 34/65 A of 29 November 1979 and 34/65 C of 12 December 1979, ES-7/2 of 29 July 1980, 35/169 A and C of 15 December 1980, 36/120 A and C of 10 December 1981, ES-7/4 of 28 April 1982, 37/86 A of 10 December 1982, 38/58 A of 13 December 1983, 39/49 A of 11 December 1984, 40/96 A of 12 December 1985, 41/43 A of 2 December 1986, 42/66 A of 2 December 1987, 43/175 A of 15 December 1988, 44/41 A of 6 December 1989, 45/67 A of 6 December 1990, 46/74 A of 11 December 1991, 47/64 A of 11 December 1992, 48/158 A of 20 December 1993, 49/62 A of 14 December 1994 and 50/84 A of 15 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[48]

Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes and Agreed Minutes, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[49] as well as the subsequent implementation agreements, in particular the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, signed at Cairo on 4 May 1994,[50] and the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility with respect to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly;

2. *Considers* that the Committee can continue to make a valuable and positive contribution to international efforts to promote the effective implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people during the transitional period;

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[48] A/51/35; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 35.*

[49] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[50] A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1994*, document S/1994/727.

3. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter VII of its report;

4. *Requests* the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate;

5. *Authorizes* the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in the light of developments, to give special emphasis to the need to mobilize support and assistance for the Palestinian people and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and thereafter;

6. *Requests* the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation to non-governmental organizations in their contribution towards heightening international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and promoting support and assistance to meet the needs of the Palestinian people and to take the necessary steps to involve additional non-governmental organizations in its work;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine to continue to cooperate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation which they have at their disposal;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations, and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the necessary facilities for the performance of its tasks.

72nd plenary meeting
4 December 1996

51/24. Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[51]

Taking note in particular of the relevant information contained in chapter V.B of that report,

Recalling its resolutions 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, 33/28 C of 7 December 1978, 34/65 D of 12 December 1979, 35/169 D of 15 December 1980, 36/120 B of 10 December 1981, 37/86 B of 10 December 1982, 38/58 B of 13 December 1983, 39/49 B of 11 December 1984, 40/96 B of 12 December 1985, 41/43 B of 2 December 1986, 42/66 B of 2 December 1987, 43/175 B of 15 December 1988, 44/41 B of 6 December 1989, 45/67 B of 6 December 1990, 46/74 B of 11 December 1991, 47/64 B of 11 December 1992, 48/158 B of 20 December 1993, 49/62 B of 14 December 1994 and 50/84 B of 15 December 1995,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with its resolution 50/84 B;

2. *Considers* that the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continues to make a useful and constructive contribution through the organization of seminars and meetings of non-governmental organizations, as well as through its research and monitoring activities, the preparation of studies and publications and the collection and dissemination of information in printed and electronic form on all issues pertaining to the question of Palestine;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division with the necessary resources, including for the further development of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine,[52] and to ensure that it continues to discharge the tasks detailed in paragraph 1 of resolution 32/40 B, paragraph 2 (*b*) of resolution 34/65 D, paragraph 3 of resolution 36/120 B, paragraph 3 of resolution 38/58 B, paragraph 3 of resolution 40/96 B, paragraph 2 of resolution 42/66 B, paragraph 2 of resolution 44/41 B, paragraph 2 of resolution 46/74 B, paragraph 2 of resolution 48/158 B, paragraph 3 of resolution 49/62 B and paragraph 3 of resolution 50/84 B, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the continued cooperation of the Department of Public Information and other units of the Secretariat in enabling the Division to perform its tasks and in covering adequately the various aspects of the question of Palestine;

5. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to lend their cooperation to the Committee and the Division in the performance of their tasks;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by Member States to observe annually on 29 November the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, requests them to continue to give the widest possible publicity to the observance and requests the Committee to continue to organize, as part of the observance of the Day of Solidarity, an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations.

72nd plenary meeting
4 December 1996

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[51] A/51/35; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 35.*

[52] See A/51/35, para. 86; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 35.*

51/25. Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[53]

Taking note in particular of the information contained in chapter VI of that report,

Recalling its resolution 50/84 C of 15 December 1995,

Convinced that the worldwide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of non-governmental organizations and institutions remain of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people,

Aware of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements signed by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[54] and of the subsequent implementation agreements, in particular the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in Washington on 28 September 1995, and their positive implications,

1. *Notes* that several defined provisions of the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat are yet to be implemented, and stresses the importance of implementation of all provisions of the programme;

2. *Considers* that the special information programme is very useful in raising the awareness of the international community concerning the complexities of the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East in general, including the achievements of the peace process, and that the programme is contributing effectively to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of the peace process;

3. *Requests* the Department, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme for the biennium 1996-1997, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America and, in particular:

(*a*) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine, including reports on the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organizations;

(*b*) To continue to issue and update publications on the various aspects of the question of Palestine in all fields, including materials concerning the recent developments in that regard and, in particular, the achievements of the peace process;

(*c*) To expand its audiovisual material on the question of Palestine, including the production of such material;

(*d*) To organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the area, including the territories under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority and the occupied territories;

(*e*) To organize international, regional and national encounters for journalists;

(*f*) To provide, in cooperation with the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development, including training for Palestinian broadcasters and journalists.

72nd plenary meeting
4 December 1996

51/26. Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[55] submitted pursuant to the request made in its resolution 50/84 D of 15 December 1995,

Convinced that achieving a final and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East,

Aware that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples is among the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Affirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war,

Affirming also the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the territory occupied since 1967 and of Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem,

Affirming once again the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

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[53] A/51/35; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 35*.

[54] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[55] A/51/678-S/1996/953; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/953.

Aware of the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, and the signing by the two parties of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements[56] in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, as well as the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,

Noting with satisfaction the withdrawal of the Israeli army, which took place in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area in accordance with the agreements reached by the parties, and the initiation of the Palestinian Authority in those areas, as well as the beginning of the redeployment of the Israeli army in the rest of the West Bank,

Noting also with satisfaction the successful holding of the first Palestinian general elections,

Aware that the United Nations has participated as a full, extraregional participant in the work of the multilateral working groups of the Middle East peace process,

Noting the establishment of the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories and its positive contribution,

Welcoming the convening of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, and all follow-up meetings,

Concerned over the serious difficulties facing the Middle East peace process and the deterioration of the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli positions and measures,

1. *Reaffirms* the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects;

2. *Expresses its full support* for the ongoing peace process which began in Madrid and the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements[56] of 1993, as well as the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of 1995, and expresses the hope that the process will lead to the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

3. *Stresses* the necessity for the immediate and scrupulous implementation of the agreements reached between the parties and the commencement of the negotiations on the final settlement;

4. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, the co-sponsors of the peace process and the entire international community to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the success of the peace process;

5. *Stresses* the need for:

(*a*) The realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination;

(*b*) The withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967;

6. *Also stresses* the need for resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees in conformity with its resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948;

7. *Urges* Member States to expedite the provision of economic and technical assistance to the Palestinian people during this critical period;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance for the United Nations to play a more active and expanded role in the current peace process and in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, for the promotion of peace in the region and to submit progress reports on developments in this matter.

72nd plenary meeting
4 December 1996

51/27. Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/120 E of 10 December 1981, 37/123 C of 16 December 1982, 38/180 C of 19 December 1983, 39/146 C of 14 December 1984, 40/168 C of 16 December 1985, 41/162 C of 4 December 1986, 42/209 D of 11 December 1987, 43/54 C of 6 December 1988, 44/40 C of 4 December 1989, 45/83 C of 13 December 1990, 46/82 B of 16 December 1991, 47/63 B of 11 December 1992, 48/59 A of 14 December 1993, 49/87 A of 16 December 1994 and 50/22 A of 4 December 1995, in which it determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in particular the so-called "Basic Law" on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, were null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, in which the Council, *inter alia*, decided not to recognize the "Basic Law" and called upon those States which had established diplomatic missions at Jerusalem to withdraw such missions from the Holy City,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[57]

1. *Determines* that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem is illegal and therefore null and void and has no validity whatsoever;

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[56] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[57] A/51/543.

2. *Deplores* the transfer by some States of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem in violation of Security Council resolution 478 (1980) and their refusal to comply with the provisions of that resolution;

3. *Calls once more upon* those States to abide by the provisions of the relevant United Nations resolutions, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

72nd plenary meeting
4 December 1996

51/28. The Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[58]

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming once more the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[59] to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Deeply concerned that Israel has not withdrawn from the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions,

Noting with satisfaction the convening at Madrid on 30 October 1991 of the Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and the principle of land for peace,

Expressing deep concern about the stumbling of the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and hoping that talks for ensuring a just and comprehensive peace in the region will soon be resumed from the point that has been reached,

1. *Declares* that Israel has failed so far to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981);

2. *Declares also* that the Knesset decision of 11 November 1981 annexing the occupied Syrian Golan constitutes a grave violation of resolution 497 (1981) and therefore is null and void and has no validity whatsoever, and calls upon Israel to rescind it;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907,[60] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[59] continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls upon the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under those instruments in all circumstances;

4. *Determines once more* that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation constitute a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;

5. *Calls* for the resumption of the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and for the respect for the commitments and guarantees reached during the previous talks;

6. *Demands once more* that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

72nd plenary meeting
4 December 1996

51/29. The Middle East peace process

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/21 of 4 December 1995,

Stressing that the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict will constitute a significant contribution to strengthening international peace and security,

Recalling the convening of the Peace Conference on the Middle East at Madrid on 30 October 1991 on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and the subsequent bilateral negotiations as well as the meetings of the multilateral working groups, and noting with satisfaction the broad international support for the peace process,

Noting the continuing positive participation of the United Nations as a full extraregional participant in the work of the multilateral working groups,

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[58] Ibid.

[59] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[60] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

Bearing in mind the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements[61] signed by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993 and the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area[62] signed by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization at Cairo on 4 May 1994, their 29 August 1994 Agreement on the Preparatory Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities, the Protocol of Further Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization at Cairo on 27 August 1995 and the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,

Also bearing in mind the Agreement between Israel and Jordan on the Common Agenda, signed in Washington, D.C., on 14 September 1993, the Washington Declaration[63] signed by Jordan and Israel on 25 July 1994 and the Treaty of Peace between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan[64] of 26 October 1994,

Welcoming the Declaration of the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit[65] held at Casablanca from 30 October to 1 November 1994, the Declaration of the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit held at Amman from 29 to 31 October 1995 and the Middle East/North Africa Economic Conference held at Cairo from 12 to 14 November 1996,

Welcoming also the declared commitment of the parties concerned to overcome remaining difficulties and proceed with negotiations,

1. *Welcomes* the peace process started at Madrid, and supports the subsequent bilateral negotiations;

2. *Stresses* the importance of, and need for, achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

3. *Expresses its full support* for all the achievements of the peace process thus far, which constitute important steps in achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

4. *Urges* all parties to fulfil their obligations and to implement the agreements already reached;

5. *Calls* for the immediate acceleration of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis;

6. *Stresses* the need to achieve rapid progress on all tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations within the peace process;

7. *Welcomes* the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, including the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, and the subsequent work of the World Bank Consultative Group, welcomes also the appointment by the Secretary-General of the "United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories", and urges Member States to expedite economic, financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian people during the interim period;

8. *Calls upon* all Member States to extend economic, financial and technical assistance to parties in the region and to render support for the peace process;

9. *Considers* that an active United Nations role in the Middle East peace process and in assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles can make a positive contribution;

10. *Encourages* regional development and cooperation in areas where work has begun within the framework of the Madrid Conference.

72nd plenary meeting
4 December 1996

51/30. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

A

Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of Articles 25, 48, 49 and 50 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 724 (1991) of 15 December 1991 and 843 (1993) of 18 June 1993,

Recalling further Security Council resolution 1074 (1996) of 1 October 1996 terminating the measures suspended by resolution 1022 (1995) of 22 November 1995 and imposed by or reaffirmed in resolutions 757 (1992) of 30 May 1992, 787 (1992) of 16 November 1992, 820 (1993) of 17 April 1993, 942 (1994) and 943 (1994) of 23 September 1994, 988 (1995) of 21 April 1995, 992 (1995) of 11 May 1995, 1003 (1995) of 5 July 1995 and 1015 (1995) of 15 September 1995,

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[61] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[62] A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1994*, document S/1994/727.

[63] A/49/300-S/1994/939, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1994*, document S/1994/939.

[64] A/50/73-S/1995/83, enclosure; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1995*, document S/1995/83.

[65] See A/49/645, annex.

Stressing the importance of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto[66] initialled on 21 November 1995 in Dayton, Ohio, and signed in Paris on 14 December 1995,

Paying tribute to the neighbouring States and the other States in the region affected by the sanctions, the Mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, the European Union/Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Sanctions Coordinator, the Sanctions Assistance Missions Communication Center and the Sanctions Assistance Missions, the Western European Union operation on the Danube, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization/Western European Union Sharp Guard operation in the Adriatic Sea and the Danube Commission, for their significant contribution to the achievement of a negotiated peace,

Reaffirming its resolutions 48/210 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 A of 2 December 1994 and 50/58 E of 12 December 1995 on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Taking note of the Sofia Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in the Balkans,[67] adopted by the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Countries of South-Eastern Europe, held at Sofia on 6 and 7 July 1996,

Taking note also of the fact that some of the States in the region affected by the sanctions have expressed their views on the issue,[68]

Commending the efforts of the international financial institutions, other international organizations and those States which responded to the appeal of the Secretary-General and the donor conferences held at Brussels in December 1995 and April 1996 by taking into consideration the special economic problems arising from the implementation of the sanctions in their support programmes and specific activities for the affected States,

Commending also the continuing attention paid by intergovernmental and regional organizations, in particular the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, as well as through the Central European Initiative, to the needs of the affected States for assistance in developing regional transport and communication infrastructures,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Supplement to An Agenda for Peace: position paper of the Secretary-General on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations",[69] and in particular its chapter III.E on the issue of United Nations sanctions,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/58 E[70] and of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. *Expresses concern* at the persisting special economic problems confronting States in the period following the lifting of the sanctions, in particular the States that border the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the other Danube riparian States and all other States affected by the consequences of the severance of their economic relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the disruption of traditional transport and communication links in that part of Europe during the period when the sanctions were in force and their long-term adverse impact on the economies of those States;

2. *Reaffirms* the need for a continuing concerted response from the international community to deal in a more effective manner with the special economic problems of the affected States in the period following the lifting of the sanctions in view of their magnitude and of the adverse impact of the sanctions on the economy of those States;

3. *Renews its invitation* to the international financial institutions and in particular the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to continue to pay special attention to the economic problems of the affected States in the period following the lifting of the sanctions and to consider ways and means for mobilizing and providing resources for mitigating the continuing negative impact of the consequences of the sanctions on the efforts of the affected States for financial stabilization and for the development of regional transport and communications infrastructure;

4. *Renews its request* to the competent organs, programmes and United Nations specialized agencies to take into consideration the special needs of the affected States in programming their development activities and to consider the provision of assistance from their special programme resources;

5. *Renews its appeal* to all States, on an urgent basis, to provide technical, financial and material assistance to the affected States in the period following the lifting of the sanctions to mitigate the continuing adverse impact of the sanctions on their economies, including, *inter alia*, through the consideration of measures for the promotion of exports, investments and development of private enterprises in the affected States;

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[66] See A/50/790-S/1995/999; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/999.

[67] See A/51/211-S/1996/551, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1996*, document S/1996/551.

[68] See A/51/226-S/1996/595 and A/51/330-S/1996/721 and Corr.1; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1996*, document S/1996/595, and ibid., document S/1996/721.

[69] A/50/60-S/1995/1; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1995*, document S/1995/1.

[70] A/51/356.

6. *Encourages* the States of the region affected by the implementation of the Security Council sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to continue the process of multilateral regional cooperation outlined in the Royaumont Platform for Action of the European Union in 1995 and launched by the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Countries of South-Eastern Europe, held at Sofia on 6 and 7 July 1996, in such fields as the realization of cross-border infrastructure projects and promotion of trade and investments, thus alleviating the adverse impact of the sanctions lifted under the terms of Security Council resolution 1074 (1996);

7. *Urges* the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other organizations involved to take appropriate steps in order to broaden access for suppliers, particularly from States which have been affected by the implementation of the sanctions, to participate actively in the post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation of the former Yugoslavia;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures to increase the opportunity for the affected countries to participate actively in the post-conflict reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the former Yugoslavia;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek, on a regular basis, information from States, regional organizations and the concerned organs and agencies of the United Nations system on action taken to alleviate the special economic problems of these States in the period following the lifting of the sanctions, and to report thereon to the Security Council, as well as to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

74th plenary meeting
5 December 1996

B

Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/232 of 21 December 1990, 46/147 of 17 December 1991, 47/154 of 18 December 1992, 48/197 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 E of 20 December 1994 and 50/58 A of 12 December 1995,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 1071 (1996) of 30 August 1996, in which the Council, *inter alia*, welcomed the agreement of the Economic Community of West African States at Abuja on 17 August 1996,[71] which extended the 1995 Abuja Agreement[72] until 15 June 1997, established a timetable for implementation of the Agreement, adopted a mechanism to verify compliance with the Agreement by the faction leaders and proposed possible measures against the factions in the event of non-compliance,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[73]

Deeply concerned about the adverse effects of the protracted conflict on the socio-economic development of Liberia, particularly the attacks against civilians, the looting of property and the destruction of infrastructure throughout the country, including the capital, as a result of the outbreak of hostilities on 6 April 1996, and the urgent need to restore peace and stability to facilitate economic recovery and the rehabilitation and reconstruction of basic sectors of the country,

Acknowledging the efforts of Mrs. Ruth Sando Perry, Chairman of the Council of State, to govern on behalf of the people of Liberia,

Noting with concern that the lack of adequate logistics and security guarantees from the Liberian factions continues to impair the delivery of relief assistance, particularly in the areas not yet under the control of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group, thereby hampering the transition from emergency to development activities,

Commending the concerted and determined efforts of the Economic Community of West African States to restore peace, security and stability in Liberia,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have rendered assistance to the Liberian National Transitional Government in its relief and rehabilitation activities, and urges that such assistance be continued;

2. *Calls upon* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide Liberia with technical, financial and other assistance for the repatriation and resettlement of Liberian refugees, returnees and displaced persons and the rehabilitation of combatants so as to facilitate the restoration of peace and normalcy in Liberia;

3. *Reiterates its appeal* to all States to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for Liberia established by the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, to assist the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group to fulfil its mandate and to provide assistance for the reconstruction of Liberia;

4. *Deplores* all attacks against and intimidation of personnel of the United Nations, its specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group, as well as the looting of their equipment, supplies and personal property;

5. *Emphasizes* the urgent need for all parties and factions and their leaders in Liberia to respect fully the security

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[71] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1996*, document S/1996/679, annex and Corr.1.

[72] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1995*, document S/1995/742.

[73] A/51/303.

and safety of all personnel of the United Nations, its specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group by ensuring their complete freedom of movement throughout Liberia and to take all measures necessary to create an atmosphere conducive to the successful resolution of the conflict;

6. *Urges* the factions and their leaders to establish conditions essential to the socio-economic development of Liberia by honouring their commitments to cease all hostilities and disarm their combatants according to the timetable agreed to at Abuja on 17 August 1996;[71]

7. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his continuing efforts to mobilize relief and rehabilitation assistance for Liberia, and requests him:

(*a*) To continue his efforts to mobilize all possible assistance within the United Nations system to help the Liberian National Transitional Government in its reconstruction and development efforts;

(*b*) To undertake, when conditions permit, in close collaboration with the authorities of Liberia, an overall assessment of needs, with the objective of holding a round-table conference of donors for the reconstruction and development of Liberia;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-second session the question of international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia.

74th plenary meeting
5 December 1996

C

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 48/450 of 21 December 1993,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions in which the Council called upon the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to expand and intensify their programmes of assistance in response to the urgent needs of Lebanon,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/32 of 25 July 1996,

Aware of the magnitude of the requirements of Lebanon resulting from the extensive destruction of its infrastructure, which is impeding national rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and adversely affecting economic and social conditions,

Reaffirming the pressing need to continue to assist the Government of Lebanon in the reconstruction of the country and the recovery of its human and economic potential,

Expressing its appreciation of the efforts of the Secretary-General in mobilizing assistance for Lebanon,

1. *Appeals* to all Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts with a view to considering an increase of all forms of support, including financial grants and soft loans given for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon; in particular, donor countries are requested to consider playing a full part in the consultative group to be established on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Lebanon;

2. *Calls upon* all organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to support governmental requirements for national capacity-building and institutional renewal in the areas of social reconstruction and development, environmental management, public services provision and support for private-sector development, and for implementing priority field-based programmes in the rehabilitation and reintegration of displaced persons and in the reconstruction and development of Baalbeck-Hermel and the south Lebanon region;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997 on the implementation of the present resolution.

74th plenary meeting
5 December 1996

D

Assistance to Mozambique

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolution 386 (1976) of 17 March 1976,

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 45/227 of 21 December 1990, 47/42 of 9 December 1992 and 49/21 D of 20 December 1994, in which it urged the international community to respond effectively and generously to the call for assistance to Mozambique,

Reaffirming the principles for humanitarian assistance contained in the annex to its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991,

Recalling its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 of 23 December 1994 and 50/82 of 14 December 1995 on assistance in mine clearance, and stressing the need to foster the establishment of national mine clearance capacity with a view to enabling the Government of Mozambique to deal more effectively with the adverse effects of these weapons within the framework of the efforts for national reconstruction,

Bearing in mind that Mozambique is emerging from a devastating war and that a proper response to address the current situation in the country requires substantial international assistance in a comprehensive and integrated manner and linking, *inter alia*, resettlement to reintegration programmes in order to strengthen further the process of national reconstruction and development, *Bearing in mind also* the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[74] adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990,

Noting the mobilization and allocation of resources by States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist national efforts,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique,[75]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[75]

2. *Welcomes* the assistance rendered to Mozambique by various States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made in the consolidation of a lasting peace and tranquillity, the enhancement of democracy and the promotion of national reconciliation in Mozambique;

4. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the successful completion of the repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programme of Mozambican citizens from neighbouring countries, and expresses appreciation for the support of the international and non-governmental organizations which, in close cooperation with the Government of Mozambique, played an important role in that programme;

5. *Stresses* that Mozambique has made significant progress in mitigating the consequences of a devastating war and that continued substantial coordinated international assistance is required to assist the country in addressing its development needs, in particular with regard to the ongoing resettlement and reintegration of internally displaced persons and demobilized soldiers;

6. *Commends* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have contributed to mine clearance in Mozambique, and urges those that have a capacity to do so to continue to provide the needed assistance with a view to enabling the Government of Mozambique to develop its national mine clearance capacity within the framework of the ongoing mine clearance programme;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Government of Mozambique:

(*a*) To continue his efforts to mobilize international assistance for the national reconstruction and development of Mozambique;

(*b*) To ensure the coordination of the work of the United Nations system for adequate response to the development needs of Mozambique;

(*c*) To prepare a report on international assistance for the national reconstruction and development of Mozambique for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

74th plenary meeting
5 December 1996

E

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/58 F of 12 December 1995 and its previous resolutions on economic assistance to Djibouti,

Recalling also the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[74] adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, as well as the mutual commitments undertaken on that occasion and the importance attached to the follow-up to that Conference,

Noting that the economic and social development efforts of Djibouti, which is included in the list of least developed countries, are constrained by the extremes of the local climate, in particular cyclical droughts and torrential rains and floods such as those that occurred in 1989 and 1994 and that the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes, as well as of the demobilization programme, requires the deployment of substantial resources which exceed the real capacity of the country,

Noting with concern that the situation in Djibouti has been made worse by the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa and in particular in Somalia, and noting the presence of tens of thousands of refugees and persons displaced from their countries, which has, on the one hand, placed serious strains on the fragile economic, social and administrative infrastructure of Djibouti and, on the other, caused serious security problems in the country,

Noting the difficult economic and financial situation of Djibouti resulting in part from the number of priority development projects that have had to be suspended in view of serious developments in the international situation and in part from the prolonged effects of the previous regional conflicts, notably in Somalia, which have disrupted services, transport and trade and which are draining the State of most of its revenues,

Noting with satisfaction that the Government of Djibouti has begun to implement the structural adjustment programme, and convinced of the necessity to support that financial recovery programme and to take effective measures to alleviate the consequences, in particular the social consequences, of that adjustment policy, which is in the course of implementation, in order that the country may achieve appreciable economic results,

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[74] A/CONF.147/18, part one.

[75] A/51/560.

Noting with gratitude the support provided to relief and rehabilitation operations by various countries and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[76]

1. *Declares its solidarity* with the Government and people of Djibouti, who have had to face critical challenges owing, in particular, to the scarcity of natural resources and the continuing critical situation in the Horn of Africa, especially in Somalia;

2. *Welcomes* the implementation by the Government of Djibouti of the structural adjustment programme and, in that context, appeals to all Governments, international financial institutions, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to respond in an appropriate manner, as a matter of urgency, to the financial and material needs of the country;

3. *Requests* the donor community to participate actively and generously in the round table on Djibouti which will be organized in February 1997 in order to help that country to rebuild its economy, restore its basic and social infrastructure and develop its human resources;

4. *Considers* that implementation of the demobilization programme and of the national rehabilitation plan and reinforcement of democratic institutions require appropriate assistance in the form of financial and material support;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts to make the international community aware of the difficulties faced by Djibouti;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the resources necessary for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Djibouti;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a study of the progress made with regard to economic assistance to Djibouti, in time for the question to be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

74th plenary meeting
5 December 1996

F

Special emergency economic assistance to the Comoros

The General Assembly,

Noting the fact that, on 28 September 1995, an army of international mercenaries invaded the Comoros, overthrew the President of the Republic, disrupted the constitutional order and, in so doing, the State institutions, as well as the political, economic and social order of the country,

Noting also that the unfavourable situation of the Comoros, which is on the list of least developed countries, is aggravated by several important factors, including its physical distance from its trading partners, the scarcity of natural resources, the diminutive size of the domestic market, the fall in prices of its export products and the poverty of its soil,

Noting further the economic and social trauma caused by that invasion and the material and structural damage suffered by the country during those events,

Aware of the efforts made by the Government and people of the Comoros to assist the most affected and deprived sectors of the population,

Considering, in particular, that in order to respond to those urgent humanitarian needs the Government of the Comoros, in the absence of other resources, had to reallocate as a matter of great urgency the major part of the budget required for the functioning of the State and the financial resources normally devoted to vital economic and social programmes,

Noting, nonetheless, the insufficiency of means available to the Government to execute programmes of reconstruction and development essential for the survival of the country,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which have provided assistance to the Government of the Comoros for the rehabilitation of the country, and appeals for the continuation of such assistance;

2. *Stresses* that the financial resources available remain nonetheless insufficient vis-à-vis the basic needs to ensure the emergence of the country from its transitional phase into a development phase;

3. *Urgently appeals* to all States and all appropriate international organizations, including United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, to provide, in consultation with the Government of the Comoros, assistance to the Comoros in repairing the damage caused by the act of aggression;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to furnish all necessary assistance in accordance with paragraph 3 above and asks him to dispatch to Moroni as soon as possible a multidisciplinary humanitarian and technical assessment mission in order to carry out a detailed study of the needs of the country in terms of assistance;

5. *Requests* all Member States and donor bodies, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations, to grant to the Comoros all necessary humanitarian, financial, economic and technical assistance, in order to enable it to achieve national reconstruction and sustainable development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

84th plenary meeting
13 December 1996

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[76] A/51/213.

G

Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/206 of 20 December 1988, 44/178 of 19 December 1989, 45/229 of 21 December 1990, 46/176 of 19 December 1991, 47/160 of 18 December 1992, 48/201 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 L of 20 December 1994 and 50/58 G of 20 December 1995 and the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council on emergency assistance to Somalia,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992 and all subsequent relevant resolutions, in which the Council, *inter alia*, urged all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and humanitarian organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Somalia and reiterated the call for the full respect of the security and safety of the personnel of those organizations and the guarantee of their complete freedom of movement in and around Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts made by the Secretary-General to assist the Somali people in their efforts to promote peace, stability and national reconciliation,

Noting with concern that political instability and the absence of central authority continue to characterize Somalia and that, while the environment has become conducive to some reconstruction and development-oriented work in certain parts of the country, the humanitarian and security situation has worsened in other parts,

Reaffirming the importance it attaches to the need for effective coordination and cooperation among the United Nations agencies and their partners,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[77] on assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia,

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States to alleviate the hardship and suffering of the affected Somali population,

Recognizing that, while the humanitarian situation remains fragile in some parts, there is a need to continue the ongoing process of rehabilitation and reconstruction alongside the process of national reconciliation, without prejudice to the provision of emergency relief assistance wherever and whenever required, as security allows,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations system focusing on working directly with Somali communities, whenever possible, in the absence of a recognized national government, and welcoming the efforts of the United Nations, in partnership with Somali counterparts at the local level and non-governmental organizations, to formulate a programme combining humanitarian and developmental approaches, given the varying conditions in different areas of the country,

Re-emphasizing the importance of the further implementation of its resolution 47/160 to rehabilitate basic social and economic services at the local level throughout the country,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to all States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have responded to the appeals of the Secretary-General and others by extending assistance to Somalia;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continued and tireless efforts to mobilize assistance to the Somali people;

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development of the countries of the Horn of Africa and the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to resolve the situation in Somalia;

4. *Also welcomes* the strategy of the United Nations focusing on the implementation of community-based interventions aimed at rebuilding local infrastructures and increasing the self-reliance of the local population, and the ongoing efforts by the United Nations agencies, their Somali counterparts and their partner organizations to establish and maintain close coordination and cooperation mechanisms for the implementation of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes;

5. *Emphasizes* the principle that the Somali people, in particular at the local level, have the primary responsibility for their own development and for the sustainability of rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance programmes, and reaffirms the importance it attaches to the creation of workable arrangements for collaboration between the United Nations system and its partner organizations and their Somali counterparts at the local level for the effective execution of rehabilitation and development activities in those parts of the country where peace and security prevail;

6. *Urges* all States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue the further implementation of its resolution 47/160 so as to assist the Somali people to embark on the rehabilitation of basic social and economic services, as well as institution-building aimed at the restoration of civil administration at the local level in all those parts of the country where peace, security and stability prevail;

7. *Appeals* to all the Somali parties concerned to terminate hostilities and to engage in a national reconciliation process that allows for transition from relief to reconstruction and development;

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[77] A/51/315.

8. *Calls upon* all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to respect fully the security and safety of personnel of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and of non-governmental organizations, and to guarantee their complete freedom of movement throughout Somalia;

9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to provide continued and increased assistance in response to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia covering the period October 1996 to December 1997;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation in Somalia, to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

84th plenary meeting
13 December 1996

H

International assistance to Rwanda for the reintegration of returning refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/211 of 21 December 1993, entitled "Emergency assistance for the socio-economic rehabilitation of Rwanda", 49/23 of 2 December 1994, entitled "Emergency international assistance for a solution to the problem of refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in war-stricken Rwanda", and 50/58 L of 22 December 1995, entitled "Situation in Rwanda: international assistance for a solution to the problem of refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in Rwanda",

Taking into consideration the need for continued humanitarian assistance to support the ongoing process of the voluntary repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of returning refugees,

Emphasizing the need for, *inter alia*, an infusion of significant material and financial resources in Rwanda in order to create conditions for sustainable peace and development,

Conscious that continued technical assistance and advisory services, as well as other assistance, is required to assist the Government of Rwanda in reconstructing the social, legal and economic infrastructure of Rwanda,

Recognizing, *inter alia*, that the Peace Agreement between the Government of the Rwandese Republic and the Rwandese Patriotic Front,[78] signed at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 4 August 1993, as well as the recently established Commission for National Reconciliation, provide an appropriate framework for national reconciliation,

Expressing its gratitude to those States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which have responded positively and continue to respond positively to the humanitarian and development needs of Rwanda, and to the United Nations, which has mobilized and coordinated the distribution of humanitarian assistance,

Welcoming the meeting on refugee reintegration in the Great Lakes region, convened at Geneva on 23 November 1996,

Welcoming also the manner in which Rwanda has handled the massive and sudden repatriation of refugees from eastern Zaire and Burundi, and stressing the need for the Government of Rwanda to continue its efforts to support the voluntary repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of returning refugees,

1. *Congratulates* all relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes for their efforts to draw the attention of the international community to the humanitarian and development needs of Rwanda, requests them to provide all possible assistance and encourages them to coordinate with the Government of Rwanda and the coordinator of United Nations activities in Rwanda in order to address the emergency and long-term development needs of Rwanda, as presented at Geneva by the Government of Rwanda on 23 November 1996, in the programme for the resettlement and reintegration in the context of the present massive return of refugees;

2. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to cooperate with and to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian personnel, including personnel of non-governmental organizations, operating in the country;

3. *Urges* all States, United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the multilateral financial and development institutions, to continue to assist Rwanda in the resettlement and reintegration of refugees and other vulnerable groups in the context of the national reconciliation process, and in the rehabilitation efforts in the following priority areas: education, health, justice, security and public infrastructure;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to continue its assistance, with a view to alleviating the intolerable conditions in Rwandan prisons and to expediting the processing of cases, encourages the Government of Rwanda to continue its efforts to improve the judicial system, including by expediting the trial process, and encourages the Government of Rwanda to continue to improve the situation in the prisons;

5. *Encourages* the International Tribunal for Rwanda to pursue its work speedily and calls upon all States to cooperate with the Tribunal, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 955 (1994) of 8 November 1994 and 978

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[78] A/48/824-S/26915, annexes I to VII; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26915.

(1995) of 27 February 1995, by arresting and detaining persons suspected of genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, and to ensure the transfer of indicted individuals to the Tribunal;

6. *Urges* all States to provide funds to projects and programmes for the reintegration of refugees, as proposed in the various subprogrammes presented by the Government of Rwanda at Geneva on 23 November 1996;

7. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the States of the Great Lakes region, to act in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the Nairobi Summit of January 1995 and the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura in February 1995, and with those contained in the Cairo Declaration on the Great Lakes Region,[79] and to continue efforts with regard to the search for peace in the Great Lakes region, in particular the convening of a conference on security, stability and development in the Great Lakes region after consulting the countries of the region;

8. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-second session the question of international assistance for the reintegration of returnees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in Rwanda, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

84th plenary meeting
13 December 1996

I

Emergency assistance to the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/8 of 18 October 1988 and 43/52 of 6 December 1988, 44/12 of 24 October 1989, 45/226 of 21 December 1990, 46/178 of 19 December 1991, 47/162 of 18 December 1992, 48/200 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 K of 20 December 1994 and 50/58 J of 22 December 1995 on assistance to the Sudan,

Noting the declining contributions to the 1996 consolidated inter-agency appeal for Operation Lifeline Sudan despite the progress made in the Operation, and noting also that considerable relief needs still remain to be addressed, in particular in the areas of non-food assistance, including assistance to combat malaria, and for logistics, emergency recovery, rehabilitation and development,

Recognizing the need in emergency situations to address the continuum of relief, rehabilitation and development so as to reduce dependence on external food aid and other relief services,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[80] and of the statement by the representative of the Sudan before the General Assembly,[81]

1. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation by the Government of the Sudan with the United Nations, including the agreements and arrangements achieved to facilitate relief operations towards improvement of United Nations assistance to affected areas, and encourages the continuation of that cooperation;

2. *Stresses* the need for Operation Lifeline Sudan to be operated with a view to ensuring its efficiency, transparency and effectiveness, with the full participation of the Government of the Sudan in its management and operation, including conducting of assessment, allocation, distribution and evaluation processes, as well as consultations in the preparation of the consolidated annual inter-agency appeal for the Operation;

3. *Stresses also* that Operation Lifeline Sudan should operate within the principle of national sovereignty and the framework of international cooperation in accordance with relevant national and international law;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to contribute generously to the emergency needs, recovery and development of the country;

5. *Urges* the international community to give priority to assistance for the rehabilitation of roads, railways and airports and to provision of means of road transport in order to facilitate relief supplies to the affected areas;

6. *Calls upon* the donor community and the organizations of the United Nations system to provide financial, technical and medical assistance, guided by the actions called for by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions to combat malaria and other epidemics in the Sudan;

7. *Welcomes* the signing in April 1996 of the political charter between the Government and many factions of the rebel movement for the achievement of peace in the Sudan, and encourages the remaining factions to join the peace process so as to establish durable peace and stability in the country and to facilitate relief efforts;

8. *Urges* the international community to support the programmes of rehabilitation, settlement and integration of returnees, refugees and the internally displaced;

9. *Stresses* the importance of assuring safe access for personnel providing relief assistance to all in need, and the importance of strict observance of the principles and guidelines of Operation Lifeline Sudan;

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[79] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/1001.

[80] A/51/326.

[81] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Plenary Meetings*, 62nd meeting, and corrigendum.

10. *Urges* all parties involved to continue to offer all feasible assistance, including facilitating the movement of relief supplies and personnel, so as to guarantee maximum success of Operation Lifeline Sudan in all affected parts of the country, with special emphasis on national capacity-building in the humanitarian field for governmental and non-governmental organizations;

11. *Also urges* all the parties to the conflict to desist from using anti-personnel mines, and calls upon the international community to refrain from supplying mines to the parties of the conflict and to provide the Government of the Sudan with financial and technical assistance in mine clearance;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize and coordinate resources and support for Operation Lifeline Sudan and to report on the emergency situation in the affected areas and the recovery, rehabilitation and development of the country to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

87th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/31. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the indissoluble links between the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[82] and the foundations of any democratic society,

Recalling the Manila Declaration[83] adopted by the First International Conference of New or Restored Democracies[84] in June 1988,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and other important principles, such as respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Recalling its resolutions 49/30 of 7 December 1994 and 50/133 of 20 December 1995, in which it recognized the importance of the Managua Declaration[85] and Plan of Action[86] adopted by the Second International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in July 1994,

Recalling also the view expressed in the Managua Declaration that the international community must pay closer attention to the obstacles facing the new or restored democracies,

Taking note of the views of Member States expressed in the debate on this item at its forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions,

Taking note also of the holding of the Informal Ministerial Meeting of New or Restored Democracies in New York on 30 September 1996 in accordance with the Managua Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind that such activities of the United Nations carried out in support of the efforts of Governments are undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

Bearing in mind also that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and on their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Noting that a considerable number of societies have recently undertaken considerable efforts to achieve their social, political and economic goals through democratization and the reform of their economies, pursuits that are deserving of the support and recognition of the international community,

Noting with satisfaction that the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies will take place at Bucharest from 2 to 4 September 1997,

Stressing the importance of support by Member States, the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations of the holding of the Third International Conference,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[87] on assistance provided in the past by the United Nations, at the request of Member States, as well as important concepts and considerations that are pertinent to this question,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[87]

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General, and through him the United Nations system, for the activities undertaken at the request of Governments to support the efforts to consolidate democracy, as reflected in his report;

3. *Recognizes* that the Organization has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of Governments to achieve

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[82] Resolution 217 A (III).

[83] A/43/538, annex.

[84] Then called the International Conference of Newly Restored Democracies.

[85] A/49/713, annex I.

[86] Ibid., annex II.

[87] A/51/512.

democratization within the context of their development efforts;

4. *Stresses* that activities undertaken by the Organization must be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the request of Member States through coherent, adequate support of their efforts to achieve the goal of democratization;

6. *Encourages* Member States to promote democratization and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps to support the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General, Member States, the relevant specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, to collaborate in the holding of the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, including innovative ways and means as well as other reflections, to enable the Organization to respond effectively and in an integrated manner to requests of Member States for assistance in the field of democratization;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

75th plenary meeting
6 December 1996

51/32. Mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Recalling its resolutions 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 49/142 of 23 December 1994 on the New Agenda,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/160 A and B of 22 December 1995 and 16 July 1996 establishing the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Noting that the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda[88] has been an occasion for an in-depth assessment of the actions taken in the implementation of the New Agenda and the measures needed to accelerate its implementation during the remaining period of the decade and beyond,

Recognizing that while there was an overall improvement in economic performance in some African countries, in the continent as a whole many of the critical social conditions and economic problems which led to the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,[89] and the New Agenda in 1986 and 1991, respectively, still exist and have worsened in some countries;

Recognizing also, as noted in the mid-term review,[90] that poverty and unemployment are expected to increase substantially in Africa, leading to the need for African countries and the international community to take urgent measures to attain the objectives of the New Agenda,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General concerning the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda,[91]

Taking note also of the document of the Organization of African Unity concerning the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda, the outcome of the High-level Seminar on African Development, held at Tokyo on 27 and 28 August 1996, and the submission by the non-governmental organizations,

Noting the contribution made by individual Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee,

1. *Adopts* the conclusions of the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, consisting of an assessment of the responses and measures to accelerate the implementation of the New Agenda, as set forth in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[88] highlighting key areas for priority attention, *inter alia*: (*a*) economic reforms, including the effective mobilization and efficient utilization of domestic resources; (*b*) the promotion of private sector and foreign direct investment; (*c*) the intensification of the democratic process and the strengthening of civil society; (*d*) environment and development; (*e*) resource flows; (*f*) solution of Africa's debt problem; (*g*) trade facilitation and market access; (*h*) the diversification of African economies; (*i*) the improvement of physical and institutional infrastructure and social and human resource development; and (*j*) women in development;

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[88] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/51/48).

[89] Resolution S-13/2, annex.

[90] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/51/48), para. 44, annex.

[91] A/51/228 and Add.1 and A/AC.251/5.

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give the outcome of the mid-term review the widest publicity to all Member States and in particular to sensitize the heads of the agencies and institutions of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and the donor community to the measures and recommendations contained therein;

3. *Requests* all States, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds, the organs and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take, as a matter of urgency, concrete and effective measures in order to implement fully the recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and to do so in a coordinated manner;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of effective follow-up, monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the implementation of the New Agenda at the national, regional and global levels, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to strengthen and improve follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the New Agenda;

5. *Recognizes* the complementary role of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa in the implementation of the New Agenda, including the mobilization of adequate resources, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of activities;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, pending the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda in the year 2002, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third and fifty-fifth sessions a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution under an item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including measures and recommendations agreed upon at its mid-term review".

75th plenary meeting
6 December 1996

51/33. Proclamation of 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day

The General Assembly,

Noting that 7 December marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation,[92] done at Chicago on that date in 1944,

Recalling that the preamble to the Convention states that the future development of international civil aviation can greatly help to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world,

Welcoming resolution A29-1 adopted in 1992 by the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization declaring 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day each year starting in 1994, and instructing the Secretary-General of the organization to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations accordingly,

Noting that, at its meeting of 27 May 1996, the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization requested the Secretary-General of the organization to take steps to urge the General Assembly of the United Nations to recognize officially 7 December each year as International Civil Aviation Day,

1. *Proclaims* 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day;

2. *Urges* Governments as well as relevant national, regional, international and intergovernmental organizations to take appropriate steps to observe International Civil Aviation Day.

75th plenary meeting
6 December 1996

51/34. Law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing the universal character of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[93] and its fundamental importance for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, as well as for the sustainable use and development of the seas and oceans and their resources,

Considering that, in its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, it proclaimed that the seabed and ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction ("the Area"), as well as the resources of the Area, are the common heritage of mankind, and considering also that the Convention, together with the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982[94] ("the Agreement"), provides the regime to be applied to the Area and its resources,

Noting the entry into force of the Agreement on 28 July 1996,

Noting with satisfaction the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention,

Recalling its resolution 49/28 of 6 December 1994 on the law of the sea, adopted consequent to the entry into force of the Convention on 16 November 1994,

Aware of the importance of the effective implementation of the Convention and its uniform and consistent application, as well as of the growing need to promote and facilitate international cooperation on the law of the sea and ocean affairs at the global, regional and subregional levels,

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[92] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 15, No. 102, p. 295.

[93] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[94] Resolution 48/263, annex.

Recognizing the impact on States of the entry into force of the Convention and the increasing need, particularly of developing States, for advice and assistance in its implementation in order to benefit thereunder,

Welcoming the establishment of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea[95] ("the Tribunal"), the Council of the International Seabed Authority, its Legal and Technical Commission and Finance Committee, and the election of their respective members as well as the election of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority[96] ("the Authority"),

Noting the decisions taken by States parties to the Convention facilitating the organization of the Tribunal[97] and those by the Assembly[98] and the Council[99] of the Authority facilitating the organization of the Authority,

Noting also the decisions taken by States parties to the Convention to elect the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in March 1997,[100]

Recalling article 287 of the Convention regarding the choice of means for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention,

Recalling also that the Agreement provides that the institutions established by the Convention shall be cost-effective,[101] and recalling further that the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention decided that this principle would apply to all aspects of the work of the Tribunal,[102]

Emphasizing the importance of making adequate provisions for the efficient functioning of the institutions established by the Convention,

Reiterating its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts in support of the Convention and in the effective implementation of the Convention, including providing assistance in the establishment of the institutions created by the Convention,

Noting the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and competent international organizations under the Convention, in particular pursuant to its entry into force and as required by resolution 49/28,

Noting with appreciation the development, as part of the Organization's home page on the Internet, of the Web sites of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat (Gopher/World Wide Web), which provide users with convenient means for obtaining timely, well-organized and cross-referenced materials and information dealing with various aspects of the oceans, marine affairs and the law of the sea,

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

Conscious also of the strategic importance of the Convention as a framework for national, regional and global action in the marine sector, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[103]

Noting the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[104] endorsed by the Economic and Social Council,[105] concerning international cooperation and coordination in the implementation of chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

Noting also the Washington Declaration and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[106]

Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the subregional and regional levels, in order to ensure the orderly and sustainable development of the uses and resources of the seas and oceans,

Reaffirming the importance of the annual consideration and review by the General Assembly of the overall developments pertaining to the implementation of the Convention, as well as of other developments relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs,

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so to become parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[93] and to ratify, confirm formally or accede to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982[94] in order to achieve the goal of universal participation;

2. *Calls upon* States to harmonize their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention, to ensure the

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[95] See SPLOS/14, paras. 13-31.

[96] See ISBA/A/L.9, paras. 4-11 and 12-17; ISBA/A/L.13, para. 12; and ISBA/C/L.3, para. 7.

[97] SPLOS/14, paras. 32-36.

[98] ISBA/A/14.

[99] ISBA/C/10 and 11.

[100] SPLOS/14, para. 41.

[101] See resolution 48/263, annex: Annex to the Agreement, sect. 1, para. 2.

[102] SPLOS/4, para. 25 (*e*).

[103] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[104] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 8* (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. A, para. 1.

[105] See A/51/3 (Part II), chap. V, sect. B.1, para. 119, resolution 1996/1; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3*.

[106] A/51/116, annex I, appendix II, and annex II.

consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding are in conformity with the Convention;

3. *Reaffirms* the unified character of the Convention;

4. *Recalls* its decision to fund the budget for the administrative expenses of the International Seabed Authority initially from the regular budget of the United Nations, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement;[107]

5. *Approves* the provision by the Secretary-General of such services as may be required for the two meetings of the Authority to be held in 1997, from 17 to 28 March and from 18 to 29 August;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention from 10 to 14 March and from 19 to 23 May 1997;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made in the establishment of the institutions created by the Convention, requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to those institutions, and invites the Secretary-General to take steps to conclude relationship agreements between the United Nations and the Authority, and between the United Nations and the Tribunal, to be applied provisionally pending the approval of the General Assembly and as appropriate by the Assembly of the Authority or the States parties to the Convention;

8. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to consider making a written declaration choosing from the means set out in article 287 of the Convention for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the annual comprehensive report on the law of the sea[108] and the activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the mandate set forth in resolution 49/28;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring the uniform and consistent application of the Convention and a coordinated approach to its overall implementation, and of strengthening technical cooperation and financial assistance for this purpose, stresses once again the continuing importance of the efforts of the Secretary-General to these ends, and reiterates its invitation to the competent international organizations and other international bodies to support these objectives;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the institutional capacity of the Organization adequately responds to the needs of States, the newly established institutions and other competent international organizations by providing advice and assistance, taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

12. *Invites* Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the further development of the fellowship programme on the law of the sea and training and educational activities on the law of the sea and ocean affairs established by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/116 of 10 December 1980, as well as advisory services and assistance in support of effective implementation of the Convention;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to further strengthen the existing system for the collection, compilation and dissemination of information on the law of the sea and related matters and to further develop, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, a centralized system for providing coordinated information and advice;

14. *Reaffirms* its decision to undertake an annual review and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and other developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on the impact of the entry into force of the Convention on related existing and proposed instruments and programmes throughout the United Nations system, for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-second session, and calls upon competent international organizations and other international bodies to cooperate in the preparation of the report;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, including other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in connection with his annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

77th plenary meeting
9 December 1996

51/35. Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/192 of 22 December 1992, concerning the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and 50/24 of 5 December 1995, concerning the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks,[109]

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[107] See resolution 48/263, para. 8; and ibid., annex: Annex to the Agreement, sect. 1, para. 14.

[108] A/51/645.

Recalling also resolutions I and II adopted by the Conference,[110]

Noting the opening for signature of the Agreement on 4 December 1995,

Recognizing the importance of the Agreement for the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and the need for the regular consideration and review of developments relating thereto,

Recognizing also the importance of artisanal and subsistence fishers,

Noting with appreciation the information provided by States, relevant specialized agencies, international organizations, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in accordance with resolution 50/24,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[111]

1. *Recognizes* the significance of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks[109] as an important contribution to ensuring the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Agreement;

3. *Calls upon* all States and other entities referred to in article 1, paragraph 2 (*b*), of the Agreement that have not done so to ratify or accede to it and to consider applying it provisionally;

4. *Takes note with concern* that many commercially important straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks have been subject to heavy and little-regulated fishing efforts and that some stocks continue to be overfished;

5. *Welcomes* the fact that a growing number of States and other entities, as well as regional and subregional fishery management organizations and arrangements, have adopted legislation, established regulations or taken other measures to implement the provisions in the Agreement, and urges them to enforce those measures fully;

6. *Calls upon* States and other entities and regional and subregional fishery management organizations and arrangements that have not done so to consider taking measures to implement the provisions of the Agreement;

7. *Urges* States, relevant specialized agencies, international organizations, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to provide information to the Secretary-General to ensure as comprehensive a report as possible;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and biennially thereafter on further developments relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, including the status and implementation of the Agreement, taking into account information provided by States, relevant specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements for the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, as well as other relevant intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that reporting on all major fishery-related activities and instruments is effectively coordinated and duplication of activities and reporting minimized, and that relevant scientific and technical studies are disseminated to the international community, and invites the relevant specialized agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as regional and subregional fishery organizations and arrangements, to cooperate with the Secretary-General to that end;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under an item entitled "Oceans and law of the sea", the sub-item entitled "Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks".

77th plenary meeting
9 December 1996

51/36. Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing; unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction; and fisheries by-catch and discards

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 46/215 of 20 December 1991, 49/116 and 49/118 of 19 December 1994 as well as other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming also its resolution 50/25 of 5 December 1995 on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, and fisheries by-catch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources,

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[109] A/CONF.164/37; see also A/50/550, annex I.

[110] A/CONF.164/38, annex; see also A/50/550, annex II.

[111] A/51/383.

Conscious of the need to promote and facilitate international cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional levels, in order to ensure the sustainable development and use of the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, consistent with the present resolution,

Mindful that the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks[112] provides in its general principles that States shall minimize pollution, waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species, through measures including, to the extent practicable, the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques, and further provides that States shall take measures, including the establishment of regulations, to ensure that vessels flying their flags do not conduct unauthorized fishing within areas under the national jurisdiction of other States,

Noting that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries sets out principles and global standards of behaviour for responsible practices to conserve, manage and develop fisheries, including guidelines for fishing on the high seas and in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, and on fishing gear selectivity and practices, with the aim of reducing by-catch and discards,

Expressing deep concern at the detrimental impact of unauthorized fishing in areas under national jurisdiction, where the overwhelming proportion of the global fish catch is harvested, on the sustainable development of the world's fishery resources and on the food security and economies of many States, particularly developing States,

Reaffirming once again the rights and duties of coastal States to ensure proper conservation and management measures with respect to the living resources in areas under their national jurisdiction, in accordance with international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[113]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[114] on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, and fisheries by-catch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources,

Acknowledging with appreciation the measures taken and the progress made by members of the international community, international organizations and regional economic integration organizations to implement and support the objectives of resolution 46/215,

Recognizing the efforts that international organizations and members of the international community have made to reduce by-catch and discards in fishing operations,

Once again expressing deep concern that there are continuing reports of activities inconsistent with the terms of resolution 46/215 and unauthorized fishing inconsistent with the terms of resolution 49/116,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance it attaches to compliance with its resolution 46/215, in particular to those provisions of the resolution calling for full implementation of a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas of the world's oceans and seas, including enclosed seas and semi-enclosed seas;

2. *Notes* that a growing number of States and other entities as well as relevant regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have adopted legislation, established regulations or applied other measures to ensure compliance with resolutions 46/215 and 49/116, and urges them to enforce fully such measures;

3. *Urges* all authorities of members of the international community that have not done so to take greater enforcement responsibility to ensure full compliance with resolution 46/215 and to impose appropriate sanctions, consistent with their obligations under international law, against acts contrary to the terms of that resolution;

4. *Calls upon* States to take the responsibility, consistent with their obligations under international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[113] and resolution 49/116, to take measures to ensure that no fishing vessels entitled to fly their national flags fish in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States unless duly authorized by the competent authorities of the coastal State or States concerned; such authorized fishing operations should be carried out in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization;

5. *Urges* States, relevant international organizations and regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to take action to adopt policies, apply measures, including through assistance to developing countries, collect and exchange data and develop techniques to reduce by-catches, fish discards and post-harvest losses consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

6. *Reiterates its call* on development assistance organizations to make it a high priority to support, including through financial and/or technical assistance, efforts of developing coastal States, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States, to improve the monitoring and control of fishing activities and the enforcement of fishing regulations, including through financial

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[112] A/CONF.164/37; see also A/50/550, annex I.

[113] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[114] A/51/404.

and technical support for regional and subregional meetings for this purpose;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional fisheries management organizations, and relevant non-governmental organizations, and invites them to provide the Secretary-General with information relevant to the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that reporting on all major fisheries-related activities and instruments is effectively coordinated and duplication of activities and reporting minimized and that relevant scientific and technical studies are disseminated to the international community, and invites the relevant specialized agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as regional and subregional fisheries organizations and arrangements, to cooperate with the Secretary-General to that end;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and biennially thereafter a report on further developments relating to the implementation of resolutions 46/215, 49/116 and 49/118, taking into account the information provided by States, relevant specialized agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under an item entitled "Oceans and law of the sea", a sub-item entitled "Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing; unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction; and fisheries by-catch and discards".

77th plenary meeting
9 December 1996

51/57. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/5 of 13 October 1993 on observer status for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the framework for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe[115] signed on 26 May 1993, as well as its resolution 50/87 of 18 December 1995 on cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling also the declaration at the 1992 Helsinki Summit by the heads of State or Government of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of their understanding that the Conference is a regional arrangement in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and as such provides an important link between European and global security,[116]

Acknowledging the increasing contribution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security in its region through activities in early warning and preventive diplomacy, including through the activities of the High Commissioner for National Minorities, crisis management, arms control and disarmament, post-crisis stabilization and rehabilitation measures, and its efforts in supporting the economic dimension, as well as its crucial role in the human dimension,

Welcoming the meeting held on 15 and 16 February 1996 on the invitation of the Secretary-General between the United Nations and the regional and other organizations, and noting the importance of continuing and further developing the practice of convening such meetings,

Recalling the special ties between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation,

Underlining the continued importance of enhanced coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[117]

2. *Also welcomes* the progress in common work in the field between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

3. *Further welcomes* the Summit Declaration and the decisions adopted by the heads of State or Government of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on 3 December 1996 at Lisbon, in particular the Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the Twenty-first Century, which, as such, complements the mutually reinforcing efforts of other European and transatlantic institutions and organizations in this field;

4. *Commends* the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the fulfilment, in cooperation with the United Nations, of the role assigned to it by the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto[118] (collectively, "the Peace Agreement"), in particular for:

(*a*) The successful supervision of the preparation and the conduct of the elections held on 14 September 1996;

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[115] See A/48/185, annex II.

[116] See A/47/361-S/24370, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1992*, document S/24370.

[117] A/51/489 and Add.1.

[118] A/50/790-S/1995/999; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/999.

(*b*) The monitoring, together with other international organizations, of the development of human rights standards;

(*c*) The support offered to the Human Rights Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(*d*) The agreements concluded under its auspices on confidence- and security-building measures, as well as on subregional arms control;

5. *Welcomes* the decision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to continue its engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to contribute to the building of democratic structures and to the fostering of civil society, including the promotion of human rights standards, and welcomes in this context further cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

6. *Underlines* the responsibility of the parties to organize free and fair municipal elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, in this regard, welcomes the confirmation that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe will supervise the preparation and conduct of those elections;

7. *Welcomes* the readiness of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to continue to contribute in and around Bosnia and Herzegovina to regional stabilization and, also in accordance with the Peace Agreement, to assist the implementation of the agreements on confidence- and security-building measures, on subregional arms control, as well as to promote negotiations on regional arms control;

8. *Also welcomes* the readiness of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to support the Human Rights Office in Sukhumi, Georgia, which forms part of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia;

9. *Fully supports* the activities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, and welcomes cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in this regard;

10. *Welcomes* the intensified cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe over the past year, for example in Tajikistan, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in the provision of human rights training courses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in collaboration on the subject of the return and reintegration of refugees and other involuntarily displaced persons in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

11. *Supports* the activities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe aimed at contributing to stability and the maintenance of peace and security within its region, and stresses the importance of the work done by its field missions;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue exploring with the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe possibilities for further enhancement of cooperation, information exchange and coordination between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and on the basis of the framework for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,[115] avoiding as much as possible duplication and overlapping in those areas where both organizations have their own respective roles to play;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in implementation of the present resolution.

81st plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/146. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[119]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, most recently resolution 50/39 of 6 December 1995, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism is one of the priorities of the Organization for the decade that began in 1990,

Deeply conscious of the need to take, speedily, measures to eliminate the last vestiges of colonialism by the year 2000, as called for in its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the elimination of colonialism, as well as of the need for the total eradication of racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the achievements of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

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[119] A/51/23 (Parts I to VIII); see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23.*

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of some administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, as well as their continued readiness to receive United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Noting with concern the negative impact that the non-participation of certain administering Powers has had on the work of the Special Committee, depriving it of an important source of information on the Territories under their administration,

Aware of the pressing need of newly independent and emerging States for assistance from the United Nations and its system of organizations in the economic, social and other fields,

Aware also of the pressing need of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, including in particular the small island Territories, for economic, social and other assistance from the United Nations and the organizations within its system,

Taking special note of the fact that the Special Committee held a Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly their Political Evolution towards Self-Determination by the Year 2000, at Port Moresby from 12 to 14 June 1996,[120]

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions on decolonization, including its resolution 43/47, in which it declared the decade that began in 1990 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all necessary steps to enable the peoples of the Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

2. *Affirms once again* that the continuation of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[121] and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

5. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1996, including the programme of work envisaged for 1997;[122]

6. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that no activity of foreign economic and other interests in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration hinders the peoples of those Territories from exercising their right to self-determination, including independence;

8. *Takes note* of the decision of some of the administering Powers to close or reduce some of the military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to eliminate the remaining military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and urges them not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States;

10. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance to the peoples of colonial Territories, and requests that the administering Powers, in consultation with the Governments of the Territories under their administration, take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

11. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(*a*) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

(*b*) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(*c*) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

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[120] See A/AC.109/2058.

[121] Resolution 217 A (III).

[122] A/51/23 (Part I), chap. I, sect. J.; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23.*

(*d*) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

13. *Also calls upon* the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1997 session;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as of the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/147. Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples[123] relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 50/40 of 6 December 1995,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to achieving complete decolonization by the year 2000,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 (*e*) of the Charter of the United Nations,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples[123] relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization;

2. *Considers it important* to continue its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to take into account the suggestions of the Special Committee to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, *inter alia*:

(*a*) To continue to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(*b*) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(*c*) To maintain a working relationship with the appropriate regional and intergovernmental organizations, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, by holding periodic consultations and exchanging information;

(*d*) To encourage involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(*e*) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to continue to extend their cooperation in the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

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[123] A/51/23 (Part II), chap. III; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23.*

51/148. Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/4 of 16 October 1992, by which it granted observer status to the International Organization for Migration,

Recalling also that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in addressing international issues of an economic, social or humanitarian nature,

Recalling further that the International Organization for Migration assists in meeting the operational challenges of migration and that it is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society, advancing understanding of migration issues, encouraging social and economic development through migration and to working towards effective respect of the human dignity and well-being of migrants,

Affirming the need to strengthen the cooperation that already exists between the two organizations in matters of common interest,

Noting the desire of both organizations to consolidate and enhance the cooperation existing between them in the economic, social, humanitarian and administrative fields,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the conclusion, on 25 June 1996, of the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration;[124]

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the appropriate measures, in consultation with the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, to ensure that the needed effective cooperation and liaison between the secretariats of the two organizations is undertaken in order to ensure complementary actions between the two organizations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, to foster systematic consultations on matters of common interest;

4. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, in order to initiate, maintain and increase consultation and programmes with the International Organization for Migration in the attainment of their objectives;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that, in the context of the report to be submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/123 of 20 December 1995 under the agenda item entitled "International migration and development, including the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development", the Assembly is informed of the cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration as it develops under the Cooperation Agreement.

84th plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/149. Assistance in mine clearance

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 of 23 December 1994 and 50/82 of 14 December 1995 on assistance in mine clearance, all adopted without a vote,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian problem caused by the presence of mines and other unexploded devices that have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of mine-infested countries and constitute an obstacle to the return of refugees and other displaced persons, to humanitarian aid operations and to reconstruction and economic development, as well as to the restoration of normal social conditions,

Reiterating its dismay at the high number of victims of mines, especially among civilian populations, particularly children, and recalling in this context Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1995/79 of 8 March 1995[125] and 1996/85 of 24 April 1996[126] on the rights of the child and 1996/27 of 19 April 1996[126] on the human rights of persons with disability, and noting the recent report on the impact of armed conflict on children[127] prepared by the expert of the Secretary-General,

Deeply alarmed that the number of mines being laid each year, as well as the presence of a large number of mines and other unexploded devices as a result of armed conflicts, exponentially outweighs the number of such mines that can be cleared during that time, and thus convinced of the necessity and urgency of a significant increase in mine-clearance efforts by the international community,

Noting the recent decisions taken at the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[128] particularly with respect to Protocol II of the Convention and the inclusion in the Amended Protocol[129] of a number of provisions of importance for mine-clearance operations, notably the requirement of detectability,

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[124] E/1996/90.

[125] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[126] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23).

[127] A/51/306 and Add.1.

[128] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I).

[129] Ibid., annex B.

Noting also the adoption at the Ottawa International Strategy Conference, "Towards a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines", on 5 October 1996, of the Ottawa Declaration,[130] whereby participants undertook a commitment towards the earliest possible conclusion of a legally binding international agreement to ban anti-personnel mines and which, among other things, recognizes that the international community must provide significantly greater resources to mine-awareness programmes, mine-clearance operations and victim assistance, and stressing the need to convince mine-affected States to halt new deployments of anti-personnel mines to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of mine-clearance operations, and noting the offer by the Government of Belgium to host a follow-up conference at Brussels in June 1997,

Welcoming the offer by the Government of Japan to hold at Tokyo a conference on anti-personnel landmines in March 1997 with a view to reinforcing international support for the work of the United Nations in landmine clearance, development of new technology for landmine detection and removal and the rehabilitation of landmine victims,

Emphasizing the importance of recording the location of mines, of retaining all such records and making them available to concerned parties upon cessation of hostilities, and welcoming the strengthening of the relevant provisions in international law,

Recognizing the important role that the international community, particularly States involved in the deployment of mines, can play in assisting mine clearance in affected countries through the provision of necessary maps and information and appropriate technical and material assistance to remove or otherwise render ineffective existing minefields, mines and booby-traps,

Bearing in mind the serious threat that mines and other unexploded devices pose to the safety, health and lives of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping and rehabilitation programmes and operations,

Aware that the rate of mine clearance needs to accelerate substantially if the global landmine problem is to be tackled effectively,

Concerned about the limited availability of safe and cost-effective mine-detection and mine-clearance equipment as well as the lack of global coordination in research and development to improve the relevant technology, and conscious of the need to promote progress in this field and to foster international technical cooperation to this end,

Encouraged by the initiative taken by the Government of Denmark in hosting and organizing the International Conference on Mine Clearance Technology at Elsinore from 2 to 4 July 1996[131] with the support and cooperation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and by the work of the Conference, notably in relation to international standards and procedures for humanitarian mine-clearance operations, which can serve as a basis on which to advance the safety, effectiveness and professionalism of these operations throughout the world,

Recognizing that, in addition to the primary role of States, the United Nations has an important role in the field of assistance in mine clearance,

Noting with satisfaction the inclusion in the mandates of several peacekeeping operations of provisions relating to mine-clearance work carried out under the direction of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in the context of such operations,

Commending the activities already undertaken by the United Nations system, donor and recipient Governments, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations to coordinate their efforts and seek solutions to the problems related to the presence of mines and other unexploded devices,

Also commending the role of the Secretary-General, through the work of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in increasing public awareness of the problem of landmines, and in the establishment of the central landmine database and inventories of mine-awareness materials and mine-clearance techniques,

Welcoming the statement by the President of the Security Council at the 3693rd meeting of the Council, on 30 August 1996, on demining in the context of United Nations peacekeeping,[132]

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the activities of the United Nations on assistance in mine clearance and the operation of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance,[133] and takes note with interest of the proposals contained therein;

2. *Welcomes*, in particular, the efforts made by the United Nations to foster the establishment of mine-clearance capacities in countries where mines constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local population, and emphasizing the importance of developing national mine-clearance capacities, urges all Member States, particularly those that have a capacity to do so, to assist afflicted countries in the establishment and development of their national mine-clearance capacities;

3. *Invites* Member States to develop national programmes, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the

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[130] A/C.1/51/10, annex I.

[131] See A/51/472, annex.

[132] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*, document S/PRST/1996/37.

[133] A/51/540.

United Nations system where appropriate, to promote awareness of landmines, especially among children;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States and regional organizations for their financial contributions to the Trust Fund, and appeals to them to continue this support through further contributions;

5. *Encourages* all relevant multilateral and national programmes and bodies to include, in coordination with the United Nations, activities related to mine clearance in their humanitarian, social and economic assistance activities;

6. *Stresses* the importance of international assistance for the rehabilitation of landmine victims and their full participation in society;

7. *Emphasizes again*, in this connection, the importance of effective coordination by the United Nations of activities related to mine clearance, including those by regional organizations, in particular activities related to standards, technological development, information and training;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to coordinate mine-related activities and, in particular, the establishment, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations organizations, of comprehensive mine-action programmes, and encourages the Department to continue and enhance those efforts with a view to improving the effectiveness of assistance in mine clearance by the United Nations;

9. *Also welcomes* the designation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the focal point in the United Nations for coordinating humanitarian demining and related issues, as the repository of information and for encouraging and facilitating international research to improve mine-clearance methods;

10. *Urges* Member States, regional organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to extend full assistance and cooperation to the Secretary-General and, in particular, to provide him with information and data as well as other appropriate resources that could be useful in strengthening the coordination role of the United Nations in the field of mine awareness, training, surveying, mine detection and clearance, scientific research on mine-detection and clearance technology, and information on and distribution of medical equipment and supplies;

11. *Calls upon* Member States, especially those that have a capacity to do so, to provide the necessary information and technical and material assistance, as appropriate, and to locate, remove, destroy or otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines, booby-traps and other devices in accordance with international law;

12. *Urges* Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations that have the ability to do so, to provide, as appropriate, technological assistance to mine-inflicted countries and to promote scientific research and development on humanitarian mine-clearance techniques and technology so that mine-clearance activities may be carried out more effectively at lower costs and through safer means and to promote international collaboration in this regard;

13. *Encourages* Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to support ongoing activities to promote appropriate technology, as well as international operational and safety standards for humanitarian mine-clearance activities, including the early follow-up of the International Conference on Mine Clearance Technology;[131]

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the progress achieved on all relevant issues outlined in his previous reports to the Assembly on assistance in mine clearance and in the present resolution and on the operation of the Trust Fund;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Assistance in mine clearance".

84th plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/150. Assistance to the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/58 H of 20 December 1995,

Recalling also previous resolutions on the question,

Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 1993 between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,[134] as well as the signing of the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of 1995,

Gravely concerned about the difficult economic and employment conditions facing the Palestinian people throughout the occupied territory,

Conscious of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied territory and the living conditions of the Palestinian people,

Aware that development is difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

Noting, in the light of the recent developments in the peace process, the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities,

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[134] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

Noting the convening of the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People, "Building the Palestinian Economy - Challenges and Prospects",[135] held at Cairo from 21 to 23 May 1996,

Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people, including assistance in the fields of elections, police training and public administration,

Noting the appointment by the Secretary-General in June 1994 of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories,

Welcoming the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, and the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and the work being done by the World Bank as its secretariat, as well as the establishment of the consultative group and the convening in Paris, on 9 January 1996, of the Ministerial Conference on Economic Assistance to the Palestinian People,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[136]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[136]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people;

3. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the work done by the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories and of the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;

5. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people in order to assist in the development of the West Bank and Gaza, and to do so in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

6. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with the Palestinian priorities set forth by the Palestinian Authority, with emphasis on national execution and capacity-building;

7. *Urges* Member States to open their markets to exports from the West Bank and Gaza and on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules;

8. *Calls upon* the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

9. *Suggests* the convening in 1997 of a United Nations-sponsored seminar on the Palestinian economy;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(*a*) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(*b*) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", the sub-item entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

84th plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/151. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,[137]

Recalling the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on regional arrangements or agencies, which set forth the basic principles governing their activities and establishing the legal framework for cooperation with the United Nations in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as resolution 49/57 of 9 December 1994, the annex to which contains the Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security,

Recalling also the agreement of 15 November 1965 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity as updated and signed on 9 October 1990 by the Secretaries-General of the two organizations,

Recalling further its resolutions on the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, in particular resolutions 43/12 of 25 October

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[135] A/51/166-E/1996/67.

[136] A/51/171-E/1996/75.

[137] A/51/386.

1988, 43/27 of 18 November 1988, 44/17 of 1 November 1989, 45/13 of 7 November 1990, 46/20 of 26 November 1991, 47/148 of 18 December 1992, 48/25 of 29 November 1993, 49/64 of 15 December 1994 and 50/158 of 21 December 1995,

Recalling that, in its resolutions 46/20, 47/148 and 48/25, it, *inter alia*, urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system to extend their support for the establishment of the African Economic Community,

Recalling also its resolution 48/214 of 23 December 1993 on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Taking note of the resolutions, decisions and declarations adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996, and by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-second ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 8 to 10 July 1996,[138]

Considering the important statement made by the Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity before the General Assembly on 24 October 1996,[139]

Mindful of the need for continued and closer cooperation between the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the Organization of African Unity, in particular in the political, economic, social, technical, cultural and administrative fields,

Noting that the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the Organization of African Unity is developing its capacity in preventive diplomacy,

Also noting the efforts of the Organization of African Unity, and the support and assistance of the United Nations, to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts in Africa and the harmonious continuation of the process of democratization,

Deeply concerned that, despite the policies of reform being implemented by most African countries, their economic situation remains critical and African recovery and development continue to be severely hindered by the persistence of lower-level commodity prices, the heavy debt burden and the paucity of funding possibilities,

Aware of the efforts being made by the Organization of African Unity and its States members in the area of economic integration and of the need to accelerate the process of implementation of the African Economic Community,

Deeply concerned about the gravity of the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa and the urgent need for increased international assistance to help refugees and, subsequently, African countries of asylum,

Acknowledging the assistance already rendered by the international community, in particular to refugees, displaced persons and African countries of asylum,

Recognizing the importance of developing and maintaining a culture of peace, tolerance and harmonious relationships in order to contribute to the prevention of conflicts and wars in Africa,

Taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[140]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity[137] and of his efforts to strengthen that cooperation and to implement the relevant resolutions;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the continued and increasing participation of the Organization of African Unity in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and its constructive contribution to that work;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations organs, in particular the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, to continue to involve the Organization of African Unity closely in all their activities concerning Africa;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that both the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity have agreed to strengthen and broaden their cooperation in measures to prevent and resolve conflicts in Africa, and in this regard invites the United Nations to provide the Organization of African Unity with the necessary support for the consolidation and promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and harmonious relationships in Africa;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations to coordinate its efforts and to cooperate with the Organization of African Unity in the context of the pacific settlement of disputes and the maintenance of international peace and security in Africa, as provided for under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. *Commends* the efforts of the Organization of African Unity to strengthen its capacity in the field of conflict resolution and to operationalize its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in Africa;

7. *Also commends* the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity for their ongoing cooperative activities in the resolution of conflicts in Africa, and stresses the need to enhance and strengthen the existing pattern of exchange of information and consultations, especially in the areas of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping operations;

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[138] A/51/524, annexes I and II.

[139] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Plenary meetings*, 40th meeting, and corrigendum.

[140] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/51/48).

8. *Invites* the United Nations to assist the Organization of African Unity in strengthening its institutional and operational capacity in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa, in particular in the following areas:

(*a*) Establishment of an early-warning system;

(*b*) Technical assistance and training of personnel, including a staff exchange programme;

(*c*) Exchange and coordination of information between their respective early-warning systems;

(*d*) Logistical support;

(*e*) Mobilization of financial support;

9. *Urges* the United Nations to enhance its cooperation with, and facilitate the participation of, the Organization of African Unity in its preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping operations and in joint fact-finding missions in Africa, by providing technical assistance and secondments and assisting in the mobilization of financial and logistical support;

10. *Also urges* the United Nations to encourage donor countries, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, to provide adequate funding and training for African countries in their efforts to enhance their peacekeeping capabilities, with a view to enabling those countries to participate actively in peacekeeping operations within the framework of the United Nations;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the assistance provided by the United Nations and its agencies to African countries in the context of the democratization process;

12. *Urges* the United Nations to continue to support the Organization of African Unity in its efforts to manage a peaceful democratic transition in Africa, in particular in the areas of education for democracy, election observation, human rights and freedom, including technical support to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;

13. *Urges* all Member States and regional and international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, to provide the necessary and appropriate economic, financial and technical assistance to refugees and displaced persons, as well as to the African countries of asylum, taking into account recent disquieting developments in this respect;

14. *Commends* the continued efforts of the Organization of African Unity to promote multilateral cooperation and economic integration among African States, and requests the United Nations agencies to continue to support those efforts;

15. *Stresses* that the economic, technical and development assistance provided to Africa by the organizations of the United Nations system must continue, and emphasizes the current need for those organizations to accord priority to Africa in this field;

16. *Urges* the Secretary-General, Member States, regional and international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations to extend their support to the operations of the African Economic Community and to assist in economic integration and cooperation in Africa, in particular the strengthening of the regional economic communities, the preparation of the protocols to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, its popularization and the strengthening of its institutional support;

17. *Requests* the agencies of the United Nations system working in Africa to include in their programmes at the national and regional levels activities that will enhance regional cooperation in their respective areas and to facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;

18. *Calls upon* the United Nations agencies to intensify the coordination of their regional programmes in Africa in order to create interlinkages among them and to ensure the harmonization of their programmes with those of the African regional and subregional economic organizations;

19. *Emphasizes* the urgency of the need to adopt appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in particular regarding (*a*) economic reforms, including the effective mobilization and efficient utilization of domestic resources, (*b*) promotion of the private sector and foreign direct investment, (*c*) intensification of the democratic process and the strengthening of civil society, (*d*) environment and development, (*e*) resource flows, (*f*) solution of Africa's debt problem, (*g*) trade facilitation and market access, (*h*) diversification of African economies, (*i*) improvement of physical and institutional infrastructure and social and human resource development and (*j*) women in development;

20. *Urges* all States and international subregional and regional organizations actively to implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, as adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

21. *Invites* the Secretary-General to associate the Organization of African Unity closely with the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including the conduct of the final review of its implementation in the year 2002;

22. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to work closely with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and requests that it be given prominence at the annual meeting of the two organizations;

23. *Recalls* its resolution 48/214, in paragraph 10 of which it invited the Secretary-General to follow up and promote the responses of the United Nations system and the international community to the development concerns of Africa, as expressed in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

24. *Takes note with appreciation* of the recommendations of the meeting between the secretariats of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations held at Addis Ababa from 6 to 9 November 1995, and requests the convening of a follow-up meeting in 1997, at Addis Ababa, to review and evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations agreed at the 1995 meeting and to adopt new and effective joint action;

25. *Calls upon* the relevant organs of the United Nations system to ensure the effective, fair and equitable representation of Africa at senior and policy levels at their respective headquarters and in their regional field operations;

26. *Requests* the relevant organs of the United Nations system to continue to assist the Organization of African Unity in strengthening its capacity for information gathering, analysis and dissemination through the training of personnel and the mobilization of technical and financial assistance;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen and improve follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa;

28. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the development of cooperation between the Organization of African Unity and the organizations of the United Nations system.

84th plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/192. Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Children's Fund

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57 (I) of 11 December 1946, by which it established the International Children's Emergency Fund, 417 (V) of 1 December 1950, by which it affirmed the Fund's decision to devote a greater share of its resources to programmes outside Europe, 802 (VIII) of 6 October 1953, by which it changed the name of the organization to the United Nations Children's Fund and removed the time limits from its mandate, 1391 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, in which it saw aid provided by the Fund as a practical way to carry out the aims proclaimed in the Declaration on the Rights of the Child,[141] 2057 (XX) of 16 December 1965, in which it applauded the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1965 to the United Nations Children's Fund and 2855 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, in which it commended the Fund for its very substantial and significant achievements during its twenty-five years of operation,

Also recalling its resolutions 33/83 of 15 December 1978 on the International Year of the Child, 44/25 of 20 November 1989 on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and 45/217 of 21 December 1990 on the World Summit for Children,

1. *Congratulates* the United Nations Children's Fund on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary;

2. *Commends* the Fund for the important contribution it has made during its first fifty years in promoting the survival, development and protection of children and as an advocate of children's rights, and all who helped to contribute to its substantial achievements, including the staff of the United Nations Children's Fund, the National Committees for the Fund and other partners.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/193. Report of the Security Council

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/233 of 17 August 1993 and 48/264 of 29 July 1994 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

Reiterating the importance of the objectives and principles relevant to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly as set out in resolutions 47/233 and 48/264,

Reaffirming the need to improve the reporting procedures of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind the ongoing work of the Open-ended High-level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System and the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council,

Taking note of the ongoing efforts of the Security Council to enhance the transparency of its working methods,

1. *Stresses* the importance of enhanced interaction and an effective relationship between the General Assembly and other principal organs, in particular the Security Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Security Council to the General General Assembly at its fifty-first session,[142] as well as the views expressed thereon in the course of the consideration of the report by the Assembly;

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[141] See resolution 1386 (XIV).

[142] A/51/2; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 2*.

3. *Encourages* the Security Council, in the submission of its reports to the General Assembly, to provide in a timely manner a substantive, analytical and material account of its work;

4. *Calls upon* the Security Council to adopt the following measures, *inter alia*, in connection with the content of its future reports to the General Assembly:

(*a*) To include, as appropriate, information on the consultations of the whole undertaken prior to action or deliberation by the Council on issues within its mandate and on the process leading to such action;

(*b*) To include the decisions, recommendations or progress of work of the subsidiary organs of the Council, in particular the sanctions committees;

(*c*) To highlight the extent to which resolutions of the General Assembly on issues falling within the scope of the General Assembly and the Security Council have been taken into account by the Council in its decision-making;

(*d*) To strengthen further the section in the report on the steps taken by the Council to improve its working methods;

(*e*) To include information on requests received under Article 50 of the Charter and actions taken by the Council thereon;

5. *Encourages* the Security Council to provide special reports in accordance with Articles 15 and 24 of the Charter;

6. *Requests* that the annual report of the Security Council be made available before the beginning of the general debate of the General Assembly;

7. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to raise with the President of the Security Council during their monthly informal meetings and, when deemed appropriate, the matters covered by the present resolution and to report to the Assembly on the steps taken by the Council in this regard;

8. *Invites* the Security Council, through an appropriate procedure or mechanism, to update the General Assembly on a regular basis on the steps it has taken or is contemplating with respect to improving its reporting to the Assembly.

87th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/194. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 47/168 of 22 December 1992, 48/57 of 14 December 1993, 49/139 A and B of 20 December 1994, 50/57 of 12 December 1995 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 of 28 July 1995 and 1996/33 of 25 July 1996,

Reaffirming also the guiding principles contained in section I of the annex to its resolution 46/182,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[143] in particular of the attention paid by the Secretary-General to effectiveness, accountability and transparency in humanitarian assistance under increasingly complex operational environments and the need for further efforts to identify and support the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development,

Taking note of the establishment, within the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, of Reliefweb, for the dissemination of reliable and timely information on natural disasters and other emergencies,

Taking note also of the relevant decisions of operational agencies, organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system concerning their participation in a coordinated response to humanitarian emergencies,

Recognizing the need for coordinated humanitarian assistance and adequate financial resources to ensure a prompt, timely and effective response by the United Nations to natural disasters and other emergencies, both for immediate relief and for the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development, which are not necessarily sequential and often proceed at the same time,

Bearing in mind the critical importance of prevention, preparedness and contingency planning for a timely and effective response to both natural and other emergencies by the Governments concerned and the international community,

Welcoming the request to the Secretary-General by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1995/56, to submit to the Council, at its substantive session of 1997, in close cooperation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, a comprehensive analytical report, including options, proposals and recommendations for a review of issues concerning the role and operational responsibilities and strengthening of all aspects of the capacity of the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance,

Deeply concerned about the suffering of victims of disasters and emergency situations, the loss of human lives, the flow of refugees, the mass displacement of people and the material destruction,

Reaffirming that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and, in this context, that humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and in principle on the basis of an appeal of the affected country,

Reaffirming also that each State has the responsibility first and foremost to take care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its territory, and hence, the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory,

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[143] A/51/172-E/1996/77.

Strongly emphasizing the urgent need to ensure, respect and promote international humanitarian law, principles and norms, the safety of humanitarian personnel and the need for States whose populations are in need of humanitarian assistance to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations in implementing humanitarian assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicines, shelter and health care, for which access to victims is essential, and reaffirming that humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality,

Concerned about the impediments created by natural disasters and similar emergencies to the development efforts of the affected countries, and welcoming the efforts of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in the context of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, to promote disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures,

Commending the activities of the United Nations Volunteers, and of the "White Helmets", deployed in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 49/139 B of 29 December 1994 and 50/19 of 28 November 1995, as well as other activities to improve, in accordance with resolutions 46/182 and 50/19, the capability for a quick and coordinated response to natural disasters and other emergencies,

Reaffirming the need for the improved accountability of all relevant actors involved in emergency relief operations,

1. *Encourages* Governments to ensure coherence in the direction given to the governing bodies of relevant organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and to thereby promote the development and strengthening of the cooperation between these organizations and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, drawing on the mandate, expertise and respective strengths and available capabilities of each, to improve the system-wide capability for a quick and coordinated response to complex humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters;

2. *Urges* all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to participate actively in the follow-up process established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/56;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, as a contribution to the report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 1997, develops options and proposals to further define operational responsibilities between its members, drawing on their respective mandates, expertise, strengths and available capabilities, to identify cooperative arrangements to strengthen their joint capacities and to strengthen its work in priority setting and formulation of coherent humanitarian strategies;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 1997 recommendations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on measures aimed at making it a more effective and transparent mechanism, under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, for inter-agency decision-making on coordination;

5. *Emphasizes* the need for the Secretary-General to draw on the discussions and conclusions in the various governing boards, as mentioned in paragraph 1 above, on the follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/56, on the results of the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in this regard and on the assessment of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, when contributing to the report of the Secretary-General, in order to ensure that all relevant issues are coherently addressed and appropriately reflected;

6. *Encourages* all relevant agencies of the United Nations system to collaborate closely at the country level in carrying out their relief activities, in order to enhance the overall policy coherence, operational complementarity and cost-effectiveness of the response of the United Nations system in emergencies;

7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to develop further, in consultation with the Emergency Relief Coordinator and with members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, a transparent and timely procedure for putting into place effective coordination arrangements in the field;

8. *Encourages* members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to cooperate closely with each other, as well as with the Bretton Woods institutions and the regional development banks, to ensure that relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development is addressed in a more effective manner, taking into account the need for a clearer division of responsibilities between different actors;

9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to strengthen further the cooperation and coordination between the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and other relevant departments of the Secretariat to ensure an effective and coherent United Nations response to natural disasters and other emergencies;

10. *Calls upon* States to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance, taking into account the importance for donors to be flexible in their response to the specific requirements of affected populations, for rapid-response as well as for early rehabilitation and recovery;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, to include in his report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 1997 proposals for the clearer identification of priority needs and the formulation of a coherent humanitarian strategy within consolidated appeals, and to ensure that consolidated appeals are formulated in a manner consistent with the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development, and also requests the Secretary-General to invite States to submit their views on this subject in due time;

12. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, to make

recommendations to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session in 1997, on possible ways to strengthen the effectiveness of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, taking into account the revolving nature of the Fund, to ensure a timely response in the initial phase of an emergency, and taking into account the need for transparent complementarity between the Fund and the individual emergency funds of operational agencies, and requests the Secretary-General to invite States to submit their views on this subject in due time;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further develop Reliefweb as the global humanitarian information system for the dissemination of reliable and timely information on emergencies and natural disasters, and encourages all Governments, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to support Reliefweb and actively participate in the Reliefweb information exchange, through the Department of Humanitarian Affairs;

14. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to develop further the Humanitarian Early Warning System, to make it fully operational as soon as possible and to consult all States on the use to which the database could be put, as well as its further development, taking into account that early warning information should be made available in an unrestricted and timely manner to all interested Governments and authorities concerned;

15. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to strengthen accountability in the field of humanitarian assistance, in particular through improved monitoring and evaluation, to ensure that:

(*a*) Organizations of the United Nations system involved in humanitarian assistance activities develop common methodologies for data collection and reporting, situation analyses, needs assessment, monitoring and tracking of resources, in order to ensure an effective and timely response;

(*b*) Clearer arrangements are made for system-wide evaluation, that the lessons learned from evaluation exercises are systematically applied at the operational level and that joint evaluation criteria are developed for humanitarian and disaster relief operations at the planning stage;

16. *Urges* all operational agencies of the United Nations system to collaborate fully with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, particularly in the early phase of an emergency, *inter alia*, by providing the Department with sufficient support in terms of human and logistical assets, to enable it to enhance coordination and the rapid-response capability of the system as a whole;

17. *Stresses* the critical need to create a sound and predictable financial basis for the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to enable it to carry out fully its mandate, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible options to achieve that goal.

87th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/195. Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

A

Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/119 of 18 December 1992, 48/208 of 21 December 1993, 49/140 of 20 December 1994 and 50/88 A of 19 December 1995 concerning emergency international assistance for the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[144]

Concerned about the continuation and recent intensification of the military confrontation in Afghanistan, threatening regional peace and stability, and the attendant displacement of families and interruptions in the process of repatriating refugees,

Deeply concerned about the massive loss of human life, the aggravated suffering of the most vulnerable groups, the destruction of property and the serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure of Afghanistan caused by seventeen years of war, and stressing the importance of a return to peace and stability for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan, bearing in mind that the country continues to suffer from an extremely critical economic situation as a landlocked, least developed and war-stricken country,

Supporting the efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan headed by Mr. Norbert Holl to bring about the restoration of peace, normalcy and national reconciliation and the reconstruction and rehabilitation of war-stricken Afghanistan,

Deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan, which continue to prevent many Afghan refugees from returning to their villages and working in their fields, and disturbed by reports of new mines being laid,

Concerned for the well-being of the unarmed civilian population of Afghanistan, in particular of Kabul, who face a long winter possibly deprived of basic foods, fuel and medicine owing to a renewal of hostilities around the capital,

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and normalcy in Afghanistan and the ability of the country to take effective steps towards revitalizing the economy, and stressing that a cessation of armed hostilities between the warring parties in Afghanistan and political stability are indispensable if reconstruction measures are to have a lasting effect,

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[144] A/51/704.

Affirming the urgent need to continue international action to assist Afghanistan in restoring basic services and the infrastructure of the country, and welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies, associated bodies and other humanitarian organizations and agencies, including relevant non-governmental organizations, in this respect,

Expressing its appreciation for the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in its continuing support for the repatriation of Afghan refugees from neighbouring countries,

Reaffirming the principle of non-refoulement as contained in article 33 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[145]

Expressing its gratitude to all Governments that have rendered assistance to Afghan refugees, in particular the Governments of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and recognizing the need for continuing international assistance for the maintenance abroad and the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons,

Expressing its appreciation to the States, intergovernmental organizations and associated bodies of the United Nations, as well as to other humanitarian organizations and agencies, including relevant non-governmental organizations, that have responded positively and continue to respond to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, as well as to the Secretary-General for his efforts to draw the attention of the international community to the acute problems of reconstruction in Afghanistan and for mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[144] and endorses the observations and recommendations set out therein;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to authorize the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, established under resolution 48/208, to continue its efforts to facilitate national reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue efforts to develop plans for national reconstruction and rehabilitation beginning in areas of peace and security, on the basis of the recommendations set out in his report;

4. *Calls upon* the leaders of all Afghan parties to place the highest priority on national reconciliation, acknowledging the war-weariness of the Afghan people and their desire for rehabilitation, reconstruction and economic and social development;

5. *Demands* that all Afghan parties fulfil their obligations and honour their commitments regarding the safety and full freedom of movement of United Nations personnel and other international personnel, as well as the security of their premises in Afghanistan, and cooperate fully with the United Nations and associated bodies as well as with other humanitarian organizations and agencies in their efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan;

6. *Calls upon* all parties not to hamper the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

7. *Expresses grave concern* at the indiscriminate use of landmines in Afghanistan, which seriously impedes the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

8. *Urgently appeals* to all States, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, on a priority basis and as far as conditions on the ground permit, all possible financial, technical and material assistance for the restoration of basic services and the reconstruction of Afghanistan and the voluntary, safe and secure return of refugees and internally displaced persons, with dignity and honour, and appeals to the international financial and development institutions to assist in the planning of the reconstruction of Afghanistan;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to respond to the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance for Afghanistan launched by the Secretary-General for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1997, bearing in mind the availability also of the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund;

10. *Denounces* the discrimination against girls and women and other violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, and notes with deep concern possible repercussions on international relief and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the cluster of items on coordination of humanitarian assistance, the item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".

87th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

B

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/140 of 20 December 1994 and 50/88 B of 19 December 1995,

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[145] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1076 (1996) of 22 October 1996, the previous statements of the President of the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan, including the statements of 15 February and 28 September 1996,[146] and the letter dated 22 August 1996 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General,[147]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 26 November 1996[148] and of his letters dated 20 November 1996 addressed to the President of the General Assembly[149] and the President of the Security Council,[150]

Noting all recent declarations by participants of regional international meetings and by international organizations on the situation in Afghanistan, including the statement by the Organization of the Islamic Conference ministerial meeting of 2 October 1996, the joint declaration made on 4 October 1996 by the leaders of Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan,[151] the statement issued on 28 October 1996 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union[152] and the Tehran Declaration of 30 October 1996,[153]

Welcoming the initiative of the Secretary-General to convene the international meeting on Afghanistan on 18 November 1996 in New York and his intention to convene further meetings of the group from time to time,

Wishing the people of Afghanistan peace and prosperity,

Strongly committed to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan,

Expressing concern at the continuation and recent intensification of the military confrontation in Afghanistan, which have caused civilian casualties and an increase in refugees and displaced persons, and which seriously endanger the stability and peaceful development of the region,

Deeply concerned about the discrimination against women and girls and other recurring abuses of human rights in Afghanistan, and emphasizing the importance of democracy and of the realization of human rights in any future political process in Afghanistan,

Deeply concerned also about the lack of progress in reaching an agreement on the establishment of an acceptable and broadly representative council and an immediate and durable ceasefire and urging all Afghan parties to resolve their differences through peaceful means and achieve national reconciliation through political dialogue,

Affirming the readiness of the United Nations to assist the people of Afghanistan in their effort to resolve internal political differences, facilitating national reconciliation leading to the restoration of a fully representative, broad-based transitional government of national unity and to the start of the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction in their country,

Convinced that the United Nations, as a universally recognized intermediary, must continue to play a central and impartial role in international efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict,

Expressing its support for the continuing efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan headed by Mr. Norbert Holl to bring about the restoration of peace, normalcy and national reconciliation, through a political process in which all segments of Afghan society are represented,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in support of the Special Mission and the engagement of that organization in Afghanistan, in coordination with the United Nations, with a view to achieving a just and lasting political settlement,

Stressing the need to prevent further civilian casualties,

Stressing also the importance of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan,

Deeply concerned at the continued supply of weapons, military equipment and ammunition to the Afghan parties, which has further contributed to the deaths of innocent civilians and the destruction of cities, villages and homes and has encouraged the factions in their futile efforts to settle political differences by military means,

Expressing its mounting concern about actions undermining the security of State frontiers, including the growing illicit traffic in arms and narcotics by criminal elements and groups from certain areas of Afghanistan and about the use of Afghan territory for the training and harbouring of terrorists, which create a threat to peace and stability in the entire region, including Afghanistan,

Bearing in mind that Afghanistan, as a State party to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and

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[146] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*, documents S/PRST/1996/6 and S/PRST/1996/40, respectively.

[147] Ibid., *Supplement for July, August and September 1996*, document S/1996/683.

[148] A/51/698-S/1996/988; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/988.

[149] A/51/689.

[150] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/966.

[151] A/51/470-S/1996/838, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/838.

[152] A/51/635-S/1996/894, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/894.

[153] A/51/634-S/1996/890; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/890.

Natural Heritage[154] of 16 November 1972, has recognized its primary duty to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of, *inter alia*, the cultural heritage situated on its territory,

Bearing in mind also the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and normalcy in Afghanistan and the ability of the country to take effective steps towards revitalizing the economy, and stressing that a cessation of armed hostilities between the warring parties in Afghanistan and political stability are indispensable if reconstruction measures are to have a lasting effect,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[148] and endorses the observations and recommendations set out therein;

2. *Stresses* that the main responsibility for finding a political solution to the conflict lies with the Afghan parties;

3. *Calls upon* all Afghan parties to cease immediately all armed hostilities, to renounce the use of force, to put aside their differences and to engage in a political dialogue aimed at achieving national reconciliation and a lasting political settlement of the conflict and establishing a fully representative and broad-based transitional government of national unity;

4. *Supports* the Secretary-General in his continuing efforts, undertaken in cooperation with the Afghan parties and with interested States and international organizations, in particular the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to promote the political process aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Afghanistan;

5. *Reaffirms* its full support for the efforts of the United Nations, in particular the activities of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, in facilitating, where appropriate in cooperation with interested States and international organizations, the political process towards the goals of national reconciliation and a lasting political settlement with the participation of all parties to the conflict and all segments of Afghan society;

6. *Calls upon* all Afghan parties to cooperate with the United Nations Special Mission, and encourages all interested States and international organizations to take all steps necessary, in close coordination with the United Nations Special Mission, to promote peace in Afghanistan, to support the United Nations efforts to this end and to use any influence they have to encourage the parties to cooperate fully with the United Nations Special Mission;

7. *Demands* that all Afghan parties fulfil their obligations and honour their commitments regarding the safety and full freedom of movement of United Nations personnel, in particular the personnel of the United Nations Special Mission, as well as the security of their premises in Afghanistan;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to authorize the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, established under resolution 48/208, to continue its efforts to facilitate national reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan, specifically to mediate an end to the conflict and to facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive peaceful settlement, to be agreed upon by the Afghan parties, which could include, *inter alia*, the following elements:

- An immediate and durable ceasefire among the Afghan parties, to be supervised by a commission composed of representatives of all the warring parties, facilitated by the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

- The demilitarization of Kabul, with adequate safeguards to ensure security and public order;

- The establishment of a broad-based and fully representative authoritative council, with authority, *inter alia*:

    To create and control a national security force to provide for security throughout the country and oversee the demobilization of all the warring parties through the collection and safeguarding of all heavy weapons in the country, and to stop the flow of arms and of equipment related to arms production to the parties;

    To form a fully representative and broad-based transitional government which would, *inter alia*, control the national security force and create conditions for free and fair elections leading to a representative national government, possibly utilizing traditional decision-making structures, such as a grand assembly, to help to establish those conditions throughout the country;

9. *Expresses its support* for the proposal by the Secretary-General to further strengthen the United Nations Special Mission by increasing the number of its military advisers from the current two to five and also by assigning to it two civilian police advisers;

10. *Reiterates its call* upon all Afghans, especially the leaders of warring parties, to cooperate fully with the broad-based authoritative council, priority being given to the implementation of the steps referred to in paragraph 8 above;

11. *Deplores* the civilian casualties inflicted by the indiscriminate use of landmines, and calls upon all Afghan parties to desist from such use;

12. *Denounces* the discrimination against girls and women and other violations of human rights in Afghanistan, and calls upon all Afghan parties to respect the human rights of every individual, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion;

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[154] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1037, No. 15511.

13. *Denounces also* violations of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, and urgently calls upon all parties strictly to respect all its provisions;

14. *Calls upon* all Afghan parties to take appropriate steps to prohibit, prevent and, if necessary, put a stop to any form of theft, pillage or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism directed against, cultural property of the Afghan nation;

15. *Calls upon* all States strictly to refrain from any outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, including the involvement of foreign military personnel, to respect the right of the Afghan people to determine their own destiny and to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan;

16. *Also calls upon* all States immediately to end the supply of arms, ammunition, military equipment, training or any other military support to all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan;

17. *Reiterates* that the continuation of the conflict in Afghanistan provides a fertile ground for terrorism and drug-trafficking which destabilize the region and beyond, and calls upon the leaders of the Afghan parties to halt such activities;

18. *Supports* the intention of the Secretary-General to move the headquarters of the United Nations Special Mission to Kabul when conditions permit;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every three months during its fifty-first session on the progress of the United Nations Special Mission and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

87th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/196. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti",

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, as well as those adopted on the question by the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted on the question by the Organization of American States,

Reaffirming that the goal of the international community remains the full observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the promotion of social and economic development in Haiti,

Paying tribute to the Haitian people in their ongoing quest for a strong and lasting democracy, justice and economic prosperity,

Reaffirming its support to the people and the Government of Haiti and for their efforts to advance democracy, respect for human rights and the reconstruction of Haiti,

Strongly supporting the continuing leadership of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in the efforts of the international community in furthering political progress in Haiti,

Welcoming the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti and the contributions of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his staff,

Welcoming also the continued efforts by States to provide humanitarian assistance and technical cooperation to the people of Haiti,

Supporting fully the contribution of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti, its Executive Director and staff, and of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti in the establishment of a climate of freedom and tolerance propitious to the full observance of human rights and the full restoration of the constitutional democracy of Haiti, and encouraging the International Civilian Mission to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Support Mission and others participating in institution-building, including police training activities,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti and the request from the President of the Republic of Haiti to the Secretary-General of the United Nations contained in the annex thereto,

Welcoming the continuing improvement in the situation of human rights in Haiti, and noting the policy statements by Haitian authorities that the Government of Haiti remains committed to upholding human rights and improving accountability,

1. *Welcomes* the recommendation of the Secretary-General contained in his report[155] to renew the mandate of the joint participation of the United Nations with the Organization of American States in the International Civilian Mission to Haiti, with the tasks of:

(*a*) Verifying full observance by Haiti of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(*b*) Providing technical assistance at the request of the Government of Haiti in the field of institution-building, such as the training of the police or the establishment of an impartial judiciary;

(*c*) Supporting the development of a programme for the promotion and protection of human rights, in order to further the establishment of a climate of freedom and tolerance propitious to the consolidation of long-term constitutional democracy in Haiti and to contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutions;

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[155] A/51/703.

2. *Decides* to authorize, on the basis of the above recommendation, the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations component of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti until 31 July 1997, according to the terms of reference and modalities under which the Mission is operating, with the possibility of a further decision to renew the Mission until 31 December 1997, based upon the report of the Secretary-General mentioned in paragraph 3 below;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly regular reports on the implementation of the present resolution, including a report to be submitted not later than 30 June 1997 on the mandate and further extension of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti, taking into consideration the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the Security Council by 31 March 1997 on the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti;

4. *Reaffirms once again* the commitment of the international community to continue its technical, economic and financial cooperation with Haiti in support of its economic and social development efforts and in order to strengthen Haitian institutions responsible for dispensing justice and guaranteeing democracy, respect for human rights, political stability and economic development;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system in providing humanitarian aid and contributing to the development of Haiti;

6. *Decides* to keep under review at its fifty-first session the item entitled "The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti".

87th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/197. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and its own resolutions, particularly resolutions 49/137 of 19 December 1994 and 50/132 of 20 December 1995, in which it recognized the importance of international support for Central America, within an appropriate global frame of reference, in order to preserve and extend the progress made in the process of consolidating peace, democracy and sustainable development and thereby to overcome the obstacles that are preventing Central America from becoming a region of peace, freedom, democracy and sustainable development,

Recognizing the importance and validity of the commitments made by the Central American Presidents since the Esquipulas II summit meeting of 7 August 1987,[156] and their subsequent summit meetings,

Reaffirming that there can be no peace in Central America without sustainable development or democracy, which are essential for ensuring the process of change in the region, and recognizing the importance of settling differences by means of dialogue, negotiation and respect for the legitimate interests of all States, with full respect for the principles of self-determination and non-intervention,

Drawing attention to the establishment at the Summit Meeting of Central American Presidents held at Guácimo, Costa Rica, from 18 to 20 August 1994, and adopted at the Central American Environment Summit for Sustainable Development, held at Managua on 12 and 13 October 1994, of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America,[157] which constitutes the new integrated strategy for development, and the importance of the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America, held at Tegucigalpa on 24 and 25 October 1994,[158] that marked a major turning point in the course taken by the region, as well as the Treaty on Central American Social Integration, adopted at the El Salvador summit meeting on 30 March 1995,[159] one of whose main objectives is to strengthen the investment in human capital,

Welcoming the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America, adopted at the summit meeting held at San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 13 to 15 December 1995,[160] that reaffirms, *inter alia*, the strengthening of civil society, the security of individuals and the elimination of poverty, and recognizing the importance for Central America of the Regional Programme of Action for the Development of Tourism, adopted at the summit meeting held at Montelimar, Nicaragua, on 8 and 9 May 1996,[161]

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation and international solidarity in supporting the efforts being made by the peoples and Governments of Central America for the consolidation of a firm and lasting peace, and the need to strengthen the new programme of cooperation and economic, technical and financial assistance for Central America in the light of the new situation in the region,

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[156] A/42/521-S/19085, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987*, document S/19085.

[157] See A/49/580-S/1994/1217, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*, document S/1994/1217.

[158] See A/49/639-S/1994/1247; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*, document S/1994/1247.

[159] A/49/901-S/1995/396, annex VII; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1995*, document S/1995/396.

[160] A/51/67, annex II.

[161] A/50/998-S/1996/497, appendix; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1996*, document S/1996/497.

Welcoming the role played by the peacekeeping operations and observer and monitoring missions of the United Nations, which carried out successfully their mandate in Central America pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, respectively,

Recalling its resolutions 48/267 of 19 September 1994, 49/236 A of 31 March 1995, 49/236 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/220 of 3 April 1996, by which it decided to establish the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala and extended the mandate of the Mission,

Recognizing the commitment of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca to continue the negotiations in the framework of the Guatemalan peace process, as well as to support the presence of United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala,

Welcoming the signing of the Agreement on Social and Economic Aspects and Agrarian Situation at Mexico City on 6 May 1996,[162] and the joint statement of the Peace Commission of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, issued on 6 August 1996,[163]

Also welcoming the signing of the Agreement on the Strengthening of Civilian Power and on the Role of the Armed Forces in a Democratic Society at Mexico City on 19 September 1996,[164] and the statements of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca of 7 November 1996, which are a positive contribution to the peace process in Guatemala,

Further welcoming resolution 50/226 of 10 May 1996, by which the General Assembly established the United Nations Office of Verification in El Salvador as a mechanism that would combine regular visits by a high-level envoy from Headquarters with a small group of experts in the field,

Stressing the efforts being made by the people and Government of El Salvador to consolidate the progress made towards a society characterized by democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and to honour its commitments under the Peace Agreement, for the benefit of all Salvadorans,

Recognizing the approval by the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador on 31 July 1996 of a package of constitutional reforms recommended by the Commission on the Truth, as well as the adoption of the Police Career Law,

Recognizing that the efforts of the Government of Nicaragua to consolidate peace and democracy, repair its economy and rebuild the nation merit the urgent support of the international community and the United Nations system in order to preserve the gains made and overcome the effects of the war and natural disasters which persist in Nicaragua,

Welcoming the adoption of resolutions 49/16 of 17 November 1994 and 51/8 of 25 October 1996, in which it recognized the exceptional circumstances that still prevail in Nicaragua,

Recognizing the importance of the effective support of the United Nations and governmental and non-governmental mechanisms in taking steps to launch new initiatives in the framework of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, and of the results of the inter-agency workshop held at Montelimar on 19 March 1996, which aimed to establish a strategic alliance between all agencies of the United Nations system working in the region,

Stressing the importance of promoting national debates on the character of macroeconomic policies most conducive to sustainable human development goals and to a lasting peace in Central America, as well as the ongoing policy dialogue carried out in this regard by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[165]

1. *Commends* the efforts of the peoples and Governments of the Central American countries to consolidate peace and promote sustainable development by implementing the agreements adopted at the summit meetings, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to give the fullest possible support to the initiatives and activities of the Governments of the Central American countries;

2. *Supports* the decision of the Presidents of the Central American countries to declare Central America a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development, and encourages the initiatives of the Central American countries, in the framework of the integrated strategy for sustainable development and in the context of the summit meetings, to consolidate Governments that base their development on democracy, peace, cooperation and respect for human rights;

3. *Draws attention* to the decision of the Presidents of the Central American countries embodied in the Declaration of Guácimo,[166] in which the national and regional strategy known as the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America[157] became an integrated initiative reflected in a programme of immediate action in the political, moral, economic, social and environmental fields, through which the

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[162] A/50/956, annex.

[163] A/50/1023, annex.

[164] A/51/410-S/1996/853, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/853.

[165] A/51/338.

[166] A/49/340-S/1994/994, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1994*, document S/1994/994.

Central American countries hope to become, with the support of the international community, an example of sustainable development for other regions;

4. *Emphasizes* the work accomplished by the Central American Integration System in favour of subregional integration to promote economic growth oriented towards human development and in the strengthening of democracy and the consolidation of peace in the region, and calls upon Member States and international organizations to provide effective cooperation for the strengthening of subregional integration;

5. *Supports* the adoption of the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America[160] concerning the supremacy and strengthening of the power of civil society, a reasonable balance of forces, the security of individuals and of their property, the alleviation of poverty, the promotion of sustainable development, the protection of the environment, the eradication of violence, corruption, impunity, terrorism and trafficking in drugs and arms, and the increased channelling of resources into social investments;

6. *Welcomes* the agreement reached on 11 November 1996 by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca to conclude their negotiations, with a view to finalizing and signing a firm and lasting peace agreement in Guatemala on 29 December 1996, thus completing the peace process in Central America, and, in this context, encourages both parties to undertake all necessary measures to achieve this objective;

7. *Also welcomes* the adoption of the Agreement on Social and Economic Aspects and Agrarian Situation,[162] the joint statement of the Peace Commission of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca[163] and the Agreement on the Strengthening of Civilian Power and on the Role of the Armed Forces in a Democratic Society,[164] as well as the statements of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca of 7 November 1996, which are a positive contribution to the peace process in Guatemala;

8. *Recognizes* the commitment of the Government and civil society of Guatemala to advance in the fight against impunity and towards the consolidation of the rule of law;

9. *Calls upon* the parties to comply fully with their commitments under all the agreements reached between them and to implement the corresponding recommendations of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the organizations of the United Nations system and the international community to continue their support for the peace process and hence for efforts to promote national reconciliation, democracy and development in Guatemala, and reiterates its appreciation of the peace efforts of the Secretary-General, the Group of Friends (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, the United States of America and Venezuela), as well as its appreciation of the contribution of the Assembly of Civil Society and other Guatemalans within the constitutional framework and the peace agreements;

11. *Calls upon* the Government of El Salvador and all the political forces involved in the peace process to make all possible efforts to complete the implementation of all remaining aspects of the Peace Agreement;

12. *Welcomes* the establishment of the United Nations Office of Verification in El Salvador as a mechanism that combined regular visits by a high-level envoy from Headquarters with a small group of experts in the field that efficiently verified the progress of the implementation of all remaining aspects of the Peace Agreement in El Salvador;

13. *Reiterates its recognition* of the effective participation of the Secretary-General and his representatives and encourages them to continue to take all necessary steps to ensure the successful implementation of all the commitments made by the parties to the Peace Agreement in El Salvador;

14. *Recognizes* the achievements made by the people and Government of Nicaragua in their efforts to consolidate peace, democracy and reconciliation among Nicaraguans, as well as the importance of political, economic and social consultation among all sectors of the country, so as to continue with the country's reconstruction, the renegotiation and reduction of the external debt, as well as the economic recovery and social development of the country;

15. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the peaceful electoral process held in Nicaragua on 20 October 1996, and its importance as a further step towards the strengthening of democracy, peace, development and reconstruction in that country;

16. *Supports* the treatment accorded to Nicaragua in the light of its continuing exceptional circumstances, so that the international community and financial institutions can incorporate that treatment into programmes to support the country's economic recovery and social reconstruction;

17. *Expresses its appreciation* of the work of the support group for Nicaragua (Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden), which, under the coordination of the Secretary-General, is playing an active role in supporting the country's efforts towards economic recovery and social development, particularly with regard to solving the external debt problem and securing investments and new resources that will allow the country's economic and social programmes to continue towards national reconciliation, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to support those efforts;

18. *Emphasizes* the importance of the current political dialogue and economic cooperation between the European Union and its member States and the Central American countries, with the participation of the Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela), in particular the ministerial conference held at Florence, Italy, on 21 and 22 March 1996, where new objectives were approved, concerning support for the strengthening and consolidation of the rule of law, support for social policies aimed at softening the social

costs of structural adjustment programmes, and support for the Central American integration process;

19. *Also emphasizes* the commitments on sustainable development adopted at the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth meetings of the Summit of Central American Presidents, with the aim of fashioning a region of peace, democracy and sustainable development, and urges the international community to give them every support;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of the support of the United Nations system through its operational activities, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, aimed at facilitating the development of programmes and projects which are indispensable for strengthening peace and the development process in the region, bearing particularly in mind the new strategy for subregional development established by the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, and urges the international community to lend its support to the achievement of the goals of the new strategy for development in Central America;

21. *Reiterates its full appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts to promote the pacification process and the consolidation of peace in Central America and to the groups of friendly countries which have made a direct contribution to attaining those ends, and requests that those efforts be maintained;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

87th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/198. United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/15 of 20 November 1990, 46/109 A of 17 December 1991, 47/118 of 18 December 1992, 48/161 of 20 December 1993 and 48/267 of 19 September 1994, in which it decided to establish the Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala, and its resolutions 49/137 of 19 December 1994, 49/236 A of 31 March 1995, 49/236 B of 14 September 1995 and, in particular, 50/220 of 3 April 1996, in which it decided to authorize the renewal of the mandate of the Mission for a further period of nine months and thirteen days, that is, until 31 December 1996,

Taking into account the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the fifth report of the Director of the Mission,[167]

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the fifth report of the Director of the Mission, regarding compliance by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca with their commitments under the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights[168] and the human rights aspects of the Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[169]

Acknowledging the support given to the Mission by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca,

Welcoming the steps taken by the Government of Guatemala to combat impunity,

Also welcoming the de facto cessation of hostilities as a result of confidence-building measures taken by both parties,

Encouraged by the progress made in the peace process as reflected in the signing of the Agreement on Social and Economic Aspects and Agrarian Situation[170] and the signing of the Agreement on the Strengthening of Civilian Power and on the Role of the Armed Forces in a Democratic Society,[171] as well as the announcement by the parties that the agreement on a firm and lasting peace will be signed on 29 December 1996 in Guatemala City,

Recalling the request of the parties that the United Nations should verify all the agreements signed by them as reflected in the Framework Agreement for the Resumption of the Negotiating Process between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca[172] of 10 January 1994,

Acknowledging the efforts of the Secretary-General, the Group of Friends of the Guatemala peace process,[173] the United Nations system and other international agencies in support of the peace process,

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[167] See A/50/1006.

[168] A/48/928-S/1994/448, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1994*, document S/1994/448.

[169] A/49/882-S/1995/256, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1995*, document S/1995/256.

[170] A/50/956, annex.

[171] A/51/410-S/1996/853, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/853.

[172] A/49/61-S/1994/53, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1994*, document S/1994/53.

[173] The Group of Friends is composed of Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, the United States of America and Venezuela.

Having considered the recommendations of the Secretary-General regarding the renewal of the mandate of the Mission contained in his report on the Mission,[174]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala;[174]

2. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the fifth report of the Director of the Mission;[167]

3. *Calls upon* the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca to continue their efforts to comply with their commitments under the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights[168] and the human rights aspects of the Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples;[169]

4. *Encourages* the parties to maintain the current momentum of the negotiating process in order to ensure that, as they have agreed, the agreement on a firm and lasting peace will be signed on 29 December 1996;

5. *Decides* to authorize the renewal of the mandate of the Mission until 31 March 1997, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General;

6. *Invites* the international community to intensify its support for the peace process, and in particular for the implementation of the peace agreements, *inter alia*, through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Guatemala Peace Process established by the Secretary-General;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit recommendations as soon as possible on how the structure and staffing of the Mission should be redesigned to enable the Mission to fulfil its new responsibilities after the signing of the agreement on a firm and lasting peace, and to keep the General Assembly fully informed of the implementation of the present resolution.

87th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/199. United Nations Office of Verification in El Salvador

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions on the situation in Central America and, in particular, resolution 50/226 of 10 May 1996, by which it, *inter alia*, decided to establish the United Nations Office of Verification in El Salvador to follow up implementation of pending aspects of the peace accords in El Salvador through 31 December 1996 after the expiration of the mandate of the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office of Verification in El Salvador,[175]

Recognizing with satisfaction the efforts that continue to be made by the Government, other parties to the peace accords and the people of El Salvador to honour the commitments contained in the accords and to consolidate the peace process,

Welcoming the progress made towards a society characterized by democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights,

Paying tribute to those Member States which have contributed personnel and voluntary funding to the Office and to technical assistance projects undertaken in support of the peace process,

1. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the Government and people of El Salvador to the consolidation of the peace process;

2. *Pays tribute* to the accomplishments of the United Nations Office of Verification in El Salvador, under the authority of the Secretary-General and his Representative;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the commitment by the Government of El Salvador and other parties to the peace accords to the full implementation of the provisions of the peace accords, and urges them to work together to complete this implementation without delay;

4. *Decides*, in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 33 of the report of the Secretary-General,[175] that:

(*a*) The Representative of the Secretary-General in El Salvador should be withdrawn at the conclusion of the mandate of the United Nations Office of Verification in El Salvador on 31 December 1996;

(*b*) The responsibilities of verification and good offices entrusted to the United Nations should be executed through periodic visits to El Salvador by a high-level envoy from Headquarters who will keep the Secretary-General informed on a regular basis;

5. *Also decides* that the envoy will be assisted for a period of six months in the discharge of these responsibilities by a small support unit in El Salvador, working with the administrative support of the United Nations Development Programme;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of a continued and enhanced cooperation of the various agencies, offices and programmes of the United Nations system active in El Salvador with the efforts of the Organization as verification of the peace accords approaches its conclusion and in the consolidation of the peace process;

7. *Calls upon* Member States and international institutions to continue to provide assistance to the

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[174] A/51/695-S/1996/998; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/998.

[175] A/51/693.

Government and people of El Salvador and to lend support to the efforts of the United Nations in El Salvador for the purposes of peace-building and development;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to it before the end of June 1997 on the implementation of the present resolution, including an assessment of the peace process in El Salvador.

87th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/200. Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the recommendation contained in Security Council resolution 1090 (1996) of 13 December 1996,[176]

Appoints Mr. Kofi Annan Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office beginning on 1 January 1997 and ending on 31 December 2001.

88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/201. Tribute to Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Welcoming Security Council resolution 1091 (1996) of 13 December 1996,

Acknowledging with deep gratitude the indefatigable efforts and dedicated service provided to the Organization during the past five years by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali,

Recognizing the high professional and personal qualities he brought to the performance of his duties and responsibilities,

1. *Places on special record* the many achievements - political, diplomatic and organizational, as well as reforms - of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in leading the Organization during a period of profound change in international relations;

2. *Appreciates deeply* the contributions of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to international peace and security and development, his services in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and his commitment towards a just and peaceful world.

88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/202. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/139 of 17 December 1991, 47/92 of 16 December 1992, 48/100 of 20 December 1993 and 50/161 of 22 December 1995,

Recalling also resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council decision 1991/230 of 30 May 1991, resolutions 1992/27 of 30 July 1992, 1995/60 of 28 July 1995, 1996/7 of 22 July 1996 and 1996/36 of 26 July 1996, and agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995 and 1996/1 of 26 July 1996,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments adopted by heads of State and Government contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[177] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[178] and their pledge to give the highest priority to national, regional and international policies and actions for the promotion of social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition, based on full participation by all;

2. *Recognizes* the necessity to create a framework for action to place people at the centre of development and direct economies to meet human needs more effectively;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit;[179]

4. *Emphasizes* that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

5. *Stresses* the need for renewed and massive political will at the national and international levels to invest in people and their well-being to achieve the objectives of social development;

6. *Emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation by civil society, are indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

7. *Stresses* that social development is clearly linked to the development of peace, freedom, stability and security, both nationally and internationally;

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[176] See A/51/732.

[177] A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[178] Ibid., annex II.

[179] A/51/348.

National action and international cooperation for social development

8. *Stresses* that social development and the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Summit are primarily the responsibility of Governments, while recognizing that international cooperation and assistance are essential for their full implementation;

9. *Notes with satisfaction* the initiatives and actions taken by Governments towards the implementation of the commitments of the Summit, including, *inter alia*, the launching of initiatives to eradicate poverty, the review and reformulation of existing social policies and laws based on an integrated approach to social development, the organization of seminars and conferences and the establishment of national focal points, and urges Governments that have not yet done so to establish appropriate national follow-up mechanisms;

10. *Reiterates its call* to Governments to define time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty and eradicating absolute poverty, expanding employment and reducing unemployment, and enhancing social integration, within each national context;

11. *Urges* national Governments to formulate or strengthen comprehensive cross-sectoral strategies for implementing the Summit outcome and national strategies for social development;

12. *Acknowledges* the key role of developing country actors and institutions in creating and implementing effective programmes to maximize the positive impact of investments in social development;

13. *Reiterates* the call of the Summit for Governments to assess on a regular basis national progress towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, possibly in the form of periodic national reports outlining successes, problems and obstacles, and encourages Governments to submit such information on a voluntary basis to the Commission for Social Development;

14. *Expresses its solidarity* with people living in poverty in all countries, and reaffirms that the satisfaction of basic human needs is an essential element of poverty eradication, those needs being closely interrelated and comprising nutrition, health, water and sanitation, education, employment, housing and participation in cultural and social life;

15. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen, in a spirit of partnership, international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development and implementing the outcome of the Summit;

16. *Calls on* all Governments and the United Nations system, in particular the relevant funds, programmes and agencies, to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective and to use gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on social development;

Mobilization of financial resources

17. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action will require the mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels, as set out in commitments 8 and 9 of the Declaration and paragraphs 87 to 93 of the Programme of Action;

18. *Invites* Governments to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development to finance programmes, seminars and activities in support of the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action;

19. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, will need additional financial resources and more effective development cooperation and assistance;

20. *Stresses* the need for all countries to develop economic policies to promote and mobilize domestic savings and attract external resources for productive investment, and to seek innovative sources of funding, both public and private, for social programmes, while ensuring their effective utilization, and in the budgetary process, to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public resources, and to give priority to providing and improving basic social services;

21. *Welcomes* the recent initiatives of the Bretton Woods institutions, including the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative, and the ongoing process at the international level regarding debt relief, as appropriate, for developing countries, and calls upon the international community, including international financial institutions, to implement fully and effectively all initiatives that will contribute to a durable solution of the debt problems of developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, and thus support their efforts to achieve social development;

22. *Stresses* the importance of encouraging national initiatives for social development, including, *inter alia*, credit for people living in poverty, particularly women, along the model of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh in connection with self-employment and income-generation to address the feminization of poverty, and notes with interest the microcredit summit to be held in Washington, D.C., in February 1997;

23. *Takes note* of the efforts of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to incorporate social development into their policies and programmes and urges the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral development institutions, to continue to study the impact of structural adjustment programmes on economic and social development and to assist adjusting countries in creating conditions for economic growth, job creation, poverty eradication and social development;

24. *Reaffirms* the urgent need for the international community to strive for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for overall official development assistance as soon as possible, an increase in the share of funding for social development programmes commensurate with the scope and scale of activities required to achieve the objectives and goals of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development;

25. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/48 of 26 July 1996 on new and innovative ideas for generating funds, in which, *inter alia*, the Council decided that funds generated by new and innovative ideas should not substitute for official development assistance, that they should be distinct from funding the regular budget and the peacekeeping budget of the United Nations, and should be part of global partnership and interdependence and that the role of private investment in financing development should be stressed;

26. *Reaffirms* the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes, and takes note with appreciation of the outcome of the meeting held at Oslo from 23 to 25 April 1996,[180] which reaffirmed that promoting access for all to basic social services was essential for sustainable development and should be an integral part of any strategy to overcome poverty;

27. *Recognizes* the necessity of providing appropriate technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the countries with economies in transition, as set out in the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action;

Involvement of civil society and other actors

28. *Reaffirms* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, the social partners, the major groups as defined in Agenda 21,[181] including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action, and for ensuring their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national level;

29. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations to participate in the work of the Commission for Social Development, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and decision 1996/315 of 14 November 1996, and in the implementation process related to the Summit to the maximum extent possible;

The role of the United Nations system

30. *Takes note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/7, by which it decided that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Council, shall have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Summit and decided to enlarge the membership of the Commission from thirty-two to forty-six and to annualize its meetings;

31. *Takes note also* of the decision of the Council on a new structure of the agenda and multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the years 1997-2000, with "Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development" as its substantive item, incorporating also the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups;

32. *Takes note further* of the decision of the Council on the revised method of work of the Commission, including the formation of panels of experts;

33. *Invites* Governments to support the work of the Commission, including through the participation of high-level representatives on social development issues and policies;

34. *Reaffirms* that the Council will provide overall guidance and oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Summit outcome and make recommendations in this regard;

35. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1996/1 on coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication and calls for their implementation by all organizations of the United Nations system;

36. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/36, in which it decided to continue to ensure, on a regular basis, the harmonization and coordination of the multi-year work programmes of relevant functional commissions by promoting a clear division of labour among them and providing clear policy guidance to them;

37. *Renews its call* to all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to be involved in the follow-up to the Summit, and invites specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to the Summit;

38. *Invites* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue, as a contribution, *inter alia*, to the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, the effort launched in 1996 with the Poverty Strategies Initiative, in order to strengthen assistance in the elaboration of national plans, programmes and strategies to eradicate poverty in developing countries, particularly African

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[180] See A/51/140, annex.

[181] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

countries and the least developed countries, and calls upon all countries to contribute to the Initiative;

39. *Welcomes* the initiative taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to establish inter-agency task forces on follow-up to international conferences, and emphasizes the importance of continued and enhanced cooperation and coordination by all relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies in the implementation of the programmes of action that emerged from the Summit and other recent United Nations conferences;

40. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to report to the Economic and Social Council on the outcome of the work of those task forces and on future inter-agency coordination on the implementation by the United Nations system of the outcome of the Summit;

41. *Takes note* of the initiatives taken by the regional commissions in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, and urges their continued involvement and support in the promotion of the implementation of the objectives of the Summit at the regional and subregional levels;

42. *Renews its invitation* to the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to convene on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to review the progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, to exchange views on their respective experiences and to adopt appropriate measures, and welcomes the offer by the Government of Brazil to host such a meeting at Sao Paulo in 1997, and welcomes the invitation extended by the Government of Austria to host a regional follow-up meeting to the Summit at Vienna at the beginning of 1998;

43. *Reiterates its invitation* to the International Labour Organization, which because of its mandate, tripartite structure and expertise, has a special role to play in the field of employment and social development, to continue to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action and to the consideration by the Commission on Social Development of the theme "Productive employment and sustainable livelihoods" in 1997;

44. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure an effectively functioning secretariat, within which clear responsibility is assigned to assist in the implementation of the follow-up to the Summit and the servicing of the intergovernmental bodies involved, and to continue to ensure close cooperation at the secretariat level between all the United Nations entities involved in the Summit follow-up;

Special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit

45. *Recalls* its resolution 50/161, in which it decided to hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives;

46. *Decides* to organize the preparatory process of the special session on the following basis:

(*a*) The Commission for Social Development, as the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council with the primary responsibility for follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, and for review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, will undertake work in 1999-2000 for the preparations of the special session, in accordance with its programme of work as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/7;

(*b*) A preparatory committee of the whole of the General Assembly is to be established at its fifty-second session; the committee will hold an organizational session in 1998; it will initiate its substantive activities in 1999 on the basis of inputs by the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council; and it will also take into account contributions by other relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system;

47. *Reaffirms* that the follow-up to the Summit will be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to social development and within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields;

48. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit to its fifty-second session;

49. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development" and to consider the implications for a more coherent treatment of related items on its agenda.

88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/203. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/242 of 25 August 1992, 47/1 of 22 September 1992, 47/121 of 18 December 1992, 48/88 of 20 December 1993, 49/10 of 3 November 1994 and all relevant resolutions of the Security Council regarding the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Reaffirming its support for the independence, sovereignty, legal continuity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within its internationally recognized borders,

Welcoming the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively the "Peace Agreement"),[182] signed at Paris on 14 December 1995,

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[182] See A/50/790-S/1995/999; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/999.

Welcoming also the efforts for the respect, promotion and protection of human rights in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the establishment of the new common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement,

Supporting those institutions and organizations of Bosnia and Herzegovina which are engaged in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the process of reconciliation and reintegration,

Concerned by the continuing obstructions faced by refugees and displaced persons wishing to return to their homes, emphasizing the need for all parties and the relevant States and international organizations to enhance the conditions necessary to facilitate return, and stressing the need for a regional approach to the issue of refugees and displaced persons,

Welcoming the foundation on 30 October 1996 of the Coalition for Return, composed of refugees and displaced persons from within and outside Bosnia and Herzegovina, including members of all communities, and expressing support for its efforts in facilitating the objectives of annex 7 of the Peace Agreement,

Welcoming also the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control negotiated at Vienna and Florence, as a vital instrument in ensuring regional stability, and alarmed by reports of uneven levels of compliance with provisions of the Agreement,

Having considered the third annual report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991,[183] and noting the varying degrees of cooperation and compliance described therein and stressing the importance and urgency of the work of the International Tribunal as an element of the process of reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region,

Supporting fully the efforts of the International Tribunal aimed at the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991, and demanding that States and parties to the Peace Agreement meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the Tribunal, as required by Security Council resolutions 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993 and 1022 (1995) of 22 November 1995, including with respect to surrendering persons sought by the Tribunal,

Welcoming the mutual recognition among all the successor States to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia within their internationally recognized borders, and stressing the importance of full normalization of relations, including the immediate establishment of diplomatic relations, among those States, in accordance with the Peace Agreement,

Stressing the importance of full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for the success of the peace efforts for the region, and calling upon the Governments and the authorities in the region, as well as relevant international organizations, to facilitate such full respect,

Noting that democratization in the region will enhance the prospects for a lasting peace and help to guarantee full respect for human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region,

Welcoming the holding of elections under the supervision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on 14 September 1996 for State, Entity and canton level offices, and calling upon all parties to further cooperate with the organization in the preparation and holding of free and fair elections throughout all of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the municipal/local level,

Noting the positive impact of the two previous pledging conferences, held respectively on 21 December 1995 and 13 and 14 April 1996 and chaired by the World Bank and the European Union on the peace process and reintegration of the country as well as the reconstruction effort, stressing the importance and urgency of providing the pledged financial assistance and technical cooperation in reconstruction efforts and the role of economic revitalization in the process of reconciliation, in the improvement of living conditions and in the maintenance of a durable peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region, and encouraging an early convening of the next pledging conference,

Welcoming in particular the important efforts of the European Union, bilateral and other donors to provide humanitarian and economic assistance for reconstruction,

Underlining that the full, comprehensive and consistent implementation of the Peace Agreement is vital for the maintenance of international peace and security,

1. *Expresses its full support* for the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively the "Peace Agreement"),[182] which constitutes the key mechanism for the achievement of a durable and just peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, leading to stability and cooperation in the region and the reintegration of Bosnia and Herzegovina at all levels;

2. *Welcomes* the successful implementation of certain aspects of the Peace Agreement, including the establishment of a lasting cessation of hostilities, the establishment of the military zones of separation, national elections held on 14 September 1996, and the formation and functioning of certain common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

3. *Underlines* the responsibility of the parties to cooperate fully and in good faith in the prompt formation and functioning of all the new common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in establishing the necessary conditions for holding democratic, free and fair democratic local elections in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement;

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[183] A/51/292-S/1996/665; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1996*, document S/1996/665.

4. *Demands* the full, comprehensive and consistent implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

5. *Welcomes* the conclusions of the meeting of the ministerial Steering Board and the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina,[184] held in Paris on 14 November 1996, in order to define the guiding principles of the civilian consolidation plan of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the Peace Agreement;

6. *Welcomes also* the conclusions of the London Peace Implementation Conference,[185] held on 4 and 5 December 1996, at which the Bosnian parties and the international community committed themselves to a detailed action plan to implement the Peace Agreement, and calls upon all parties, as signatories to the Peace Agreement and immediate neighbours, to continue to work for a peaceful, reintegrated and stable Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the Peace Agreement;

7. *Recognizes* that responsibility for consolidating the peace lies primarily with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as was confirmed in particular in the joint declaration adopted at Geneva on 14 August 1996;

8. *Also recognizes* that the role of the international community remains essential, and welcomes the readiness of the international community to continue its efforts;

9. *Underlines* the relationship between the fulfilment by the parties of their commitments under the Peace Agreement and the readiness of the international community to commit resources for reconstruction and development;

10. *Welcomes* the formation of the multinational Stabilization Force authorized by the Security Council as the successor to the Implementation Force, and calls upon all parties to cooperate fully with it;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the full, comprehensive and consistent implementation of the Peace Agreement, including cooperation and compliance with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the establishment of the necessary conditions for the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, and the establishment of the necessary conditions for freedom of movement;

12. *Calls upon* all the parties to cooperate fully, and in good faith, in the prompt formation and functioning of all of the new common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in establishing the necessary conditions for holding democratic, free and fair local elections at the municipal level in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement, and urges the relevant international organizations to consider the provision of assistance to meet the infrastructural needs of the new common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in Sarajevo, the capital of the State and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

13. *Insists* upon the need to deliver all indictees to the International Tribunal to trial, notes that the International Tribunal has the authority to address individual responsibility for the perpetration of the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and reiterates that all parties should arrest and surrender to the Tribunal all indicted persons on territories under their control, and to otherwise fully comply with the orders of the Tribunal and to cooperate with the work of the Tribunal, including with exhumations and other investigative acts, in accordance with article 29 of the statute of the Tribunal, with all relevant Security Council resolutions and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement and its annexes, in particular the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

14. *Urges* Member States, taking into account the orders and requests of the International Tribunal, to offer the Tribunal their full support, including financial support, in order to ensure the completion of the Tribunal's purpose, and to carry out their obligations under the statute of the Tribunal and all relevant Security Council resolutions;

15. *Reaffirms once again* the right of refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes of origin in accordance with the Peace Agreement, in particular annex 7 of the Agreement, and the realization of same in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and host countries, calls upon all parties to immediately establish the conditions necessary for the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes and for the freedom of movement and communication for all the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and upon the relevant international organizations to enhance the conditions to facilitate return, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement and its annexes, in particular the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and welcomes efforts by the European Union, bilateral and other donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in establishing projects designed to facilitate the voluntary and orderly return of refugees and displaced persons to all regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

16. *Strongly condemns* all acts of intimidation designed to discourage the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, in particular the destruction of housing units;

17. *Reaffirms once again* its support for the principle that all statements and commitments made under duress, particularly those regarding land and property, are wholly null and void, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement, and supports the effective engagement of the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees, in compliance with its mandate;

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[184] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/968.

[185] Ibid., document S/1996/1012.

18. *Emphasizes* the importance of economic revitalization and reconstruction for the successful consolidation of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

19. *Calls upon* the parties to cooperate fully with the arbitration process in Brčko and to respect the decisions reached through the arbitration process, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement;

20. *Demands* that all parties comply fully with the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control, including the accurate reporting of existing levels of armaments and the destruction of the required amounts of armaments, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement, and urges Member States and the appropriate regional organizations to assist in the implementation and verification of the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement;

21. *Stresses* the need for timely information about the level of cooperation and compliance with the International Tribunal and its orders, the status and programme for the return of refugees and displaced persons to and within Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the status and implementation of the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control;

22. *Commends* the efforts of the international community, including the Council of Europe, the European Union, the European Community Monitoring Mission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Monetary Fund, the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the Islamic Development Bank, the multinational Implementation Force led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, non-governmental organizations, the office of the High Representative, the office of the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights of the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Peace Implementation Council, the United Nations International Police Task Force, the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the World Bank, in their roles in the implementation of the Peace Agreement;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda at its fifty-second session the item entitled "The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/204. Observer status for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Stressing the importance of the uniform interpretation or application of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[186] the agreements related thereto and any other agreement which may confer jurisdiction on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,

Aware of the need for States to settle any disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention by peaceful means,

Welcoming the establishment of the Tribunal in Hamburg, Germany,

Noting the decision of the Meeting of States Parties at its fifth session to seek observer status for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in order to enable it to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly[187] and the decision of the Tribunal at its first session to seek such observer status,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/205. Proclamation of 21 November as World Television Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, in which it stated, *inter alia*, that the United Nations cannot achieve its purposes unless the peoples of the world are fully informed of its aims and activities,

Recalling also its resolutions concerning information in service of humanity and United Nations public information policies and activities,

Reaffirming its commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media,

Underlining that communications have become one of today's central international issues, not only for their relevance for the world economy, but also for their implications for social and cultural development,

Recognizing the increasing impact that television has on decision-making by alerting world attention to conflicts and threats to peace and security and its potential role in sharpening the focus on other major issues, including economic and social issues,

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[186] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[187] See SPLOS/14, para. 36.

Underlining that the United Nations faces ever-increasing demands to address the major issues facing humankind and that television, as one of today's most powerful communications media, could play a role in presenting these issues to the world,

Noting with satisfaction the holding at Headquarters, on 21 and 22 November 1996, of the first World Television Forum, where leading media figures met under the auspices of the United Nations to discuss the growing significance of television in today's changing world and to consider how they might enhance their mutual cooperation,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 21 November World Television Day, commemorating the date on which the first World Television Forum was held;

2. *Invites* all Member States to observe World Television Day by encouraging global exchanges of television programmes focusing, among other things, on such issues as peace, security, economic and social development and the enhancement of cultural exchange;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments and appropriate non-governmental organizations.

88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

II. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

CONTENTS

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/37	Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament	72
51/38	Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures	72
51/39	The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament	73
51/40	The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields	74
51/41	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East	74
51/42	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia	75
51/43	Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons	76
51/44	Prevention of an arms race in outer space	77
51/45	General and complete disarmament	
	A. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee	79
	B. The nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas	79
	C. Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament	80
	D. Relationship between disarmament and development	81
	E. Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control	81
	F. Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms	83
	G. Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons	83
	H. Transparency in armaments	84
	I. Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament	85
	J. Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes	86
	K. Regional disarmament	87
	L. Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them	88
	M. Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons	89
	N. Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures	89
	O. Nuclear disarmament	90

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
	P. Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol	92
	Q. Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels	92
	R. Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament	93
	S. An international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines	94
	T. Status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction	95
51/46	Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly	
	A. United Nations Disarmament Information Programme	95
	B. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific	96
	C. Regional confidence-building measures	97
	D. Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons	98
	E. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa	100
	F. United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services	100
51/47	Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session	
	A. Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament	101
	B. Report of the Disarmament Commission	101
	C. Report of the Conference on Disarmament	102
51/48	The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East	103
51/49	Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	104
51/50	Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region	105
51/51	Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace	106
51/52	Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)	107
51/53	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)	107
51/54	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction	108
51/55	The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States	109
51/56	Question of Antarctica	110

51/37. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Taking note of paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[1]

Determined to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948,[2]

Noting that the item entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: radiological weapons" was considered in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1994, 1995 and 1996 sessions,

Also noting the desirability of keeping the matter under review, as appropriate,

1. *Reaffirms* that effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, without prejudice to further overview of its agenda, to keep the matter under review, as appropriate, with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on identified types of such weapons;

3. *Calls upon* all States, immediately following any recommendations of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to those recommendations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

5. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report the results of any consideration of the matter in its annual reports to the General Assembly;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/38. Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/66 of 15 December 1994 on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures,

Also recalling its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, and its resolution 48/62 of 16 December 1993, calling upon all Member States to participate in it, and its resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, endorsing the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters and inviting Member States to provide relevant information to the Secretary-General regarding their implementation,

Noting that since then national reports on military expenditures and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters have been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General[3] on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, how to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing Member States with the reports on military expenditures in standardized form reported by States and on guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters,

Welcoming the decision of many Member States to exchange and to publish information annually on their military budgets and to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, as appropriate,

Reaffirming its firm conviction that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and contribute to the building of confidence among States and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements,

Convinced that the improvement of international relations forms a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency in all military matters,

Recalling that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters recommended certain areas for further consideration, such as the improvement of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

1. *Recommends* the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters to all Member

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[1] Resolution S-10/2.

[2] The definition was adopted by the Commission for Conventional Armaments (see S/C.3/32/Rev.1).

[3] A/51/179.

States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;

2. *Calls upon* all Member States to report annually, by 30 April, to the Secretary-General their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, for the time being, the reporting instrument as recommended in its resolution 35/142 B;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate annually the reports on military expenditures as received from Member States;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and make recommendations on necessary changes to the content and structure of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures in order to strengthen and broaden participation, and to submit a report within existing resources on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

5. *Calls upon* all Member States, in time for the deliberation by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, to provide the Secretary-General with their views on ways and means to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, including necessary changes to its content and structure;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/39. The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Concerned that military applications of scientific and technological developments can contribute significantly to the improvement and upgrading of weapons of mass destruction,

Aware of the need to follow closely the scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on international security and disarmament, and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

Cognizant that the international transfers of dual-use as well as high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes are important for the economic and social development of States,

Expressing concern over the growing proliferation of ad hoc and exclusive export control regimes and arrangements for dual-use goods and technologies,

Recalling that the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,[4] noted that restrictions being placed on access to technology through the imposition of non-transparent ad hoc export control regimes with exclusive membership tended to impede the economic and social development of developing countries,

Emphasizing that internationally negotiated guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account the legitimate defence requirements of all States and requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that access to high-technology products and services and know-how for peaceful purposes is not denied,

1. *Affirms* that scientific and technological progress should be used for the benefit of all mankind to promote the sustainable economic and social development of all States and to safeguard international security, and that international cooperation in the use of science and technology through the transfer and exchange of technological know-how for peaceful purposes should be promoted;

2. *Invites* Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

3. *Urges* Member States to undertake multilateral negotiations with the participation of all interested States in order to establish universally acceptable, non-discriminatory guidelines for international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications;

4. *Recalls* the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security",[5] and requests the Secretary-General to update and further develop that report in order to evaluate the impact of recent scientific and technological developments, especially those which have potential military applications, and to submit a report to the General Assembly no later than at its fifty-third session;

5. *Encourages* United Nations bodies to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

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[4] A/50/752-S/1995/1035, annex III; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/1035.

[5] A/45/568.

51/40. The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, in which, *inter alia*, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

1. *Invites* Member States to enhance bilateral and multilateral dialogue on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, with a view to:

(*a*) Ensuring implementation of relevant commitments already undertaken under international legal instruments;

(*b*) Exploring ways and means of further developing international legal rules on transfers of high technology with military applications;

2. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/41. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 A and B of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988, 44/108 of 15 December 1989, 45/52 of 4 December 1990, 46/30 of 6 December 1991, 47/48 of 9 December 1992, 48/71 of 16 December 1993, 49/71 of 15 December 1994 and 50/66 of 12 December 1995 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (*d*), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[6]

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the zone and to deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly since its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Welcoming all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Recognizing the importance of credible regional security, including the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Emphasizing the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/66,[7]

1. *Urges* all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries

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[6] Resolution S-10/2.

[7] A/51/286 and Add.1.

concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;[8]

2. *Calls upon* all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

3. *Takes note* of resolution GC(40)RES/22, adopted on 20 September 1996 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fortieth regular session, concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East;

4. *Notes* the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

5. *Invites* all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (*d*) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[6] and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

6. *Also invites* those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

7. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

9. *Invites* all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to his report[9] or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/42. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/73 of 10 December 1976, 32/83 of 12 December 1977, 33/65 of 14 December 1978, 34/78 of 11 December 1979, 35/148 of 12 December 1980, 36/88 of 9 December 1981, 37/76 of 9 December 1982, 38/65 of 15 December 1983, 39/55 of 12 December 1984, 40/83 of 12 December 1985, 41/49 of 3 December 1986, 42/29 of 30 November 1987, 43/66 of 7 December 1988, 44/109 of 15 December 1989, 45/53 of 4 December 1990, 46/31 of 6 December 1991, 47/49 of 9 December 1992, 48/72 of 16 December 1993, 49/72 of 15 December 1994 and 50/67 of 12 December 1995 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

Reiterating its conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures that can contribute effectively to the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament,

Believing that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, as in other regions, will assist in the strengthening of the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note with appreciation of the declarations issued at the highest level by the Governments of South Asian States that are developing their peaceful nuclear programmes, reaffirming their undertaking not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples,

Welcoming the proposal for the conclusion of a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban agreement in South Asia,

Noting the proposal to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, a conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia as soon as possible, with the participation of the regional and other concerned States,

Noting the proposal to hold consultations among five nations with a view to ensuring nuclear non-proliferation in the region,

Considering that the eventual participation of other States, as appropriate, in this process could be useful,

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[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[9] A/45/435.

Bearing in mind the provisions of paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly[10] regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the region of South Asia,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[11]

1. *Reaffirms* its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

2. *Urges once again* the States of South Asia to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to that objective;

3. *Welcomes* the support of all the five nuclear-weapon States for this proposal, and calls upon them to extend the necessary cooperation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/43. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years in both nuclear and conventional disarmament,

Noting that, despite recent progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, further efforts are necessary towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Determined strictly to abide by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of force, including the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective measures and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Recognizing that effective measures and arrangements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[12] the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament[13] submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session,[14] the second special session devoted to disarmament, and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session,[15] the third special session devoted to disarmament, as well as the report of the Conference on its 1992 session,[16]

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, which states, *inter alia*, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

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[10] Resolution S-10/2.

[11] A/51/176.

[12] Resolution S-10/2.

[13] The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-12/2), sect. III.C.

[15] Ibid., *Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-15/2), sect. III.F.

[16] Ibid., *Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/47/27), sect. III.F.

Noting the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons,[17] with a view to reaching agreement on this item,

Taking note of the proposals submitted under that item in the Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention,

Taking note also of the relevant decision of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,[18] and also of the decision adopted by the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992,[19] as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference reiterated in the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Istanbul from 4 to 8 August 1991,[20] calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to reach an urgent agreement on an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

Noting also the greater willingness to overcome the difficulties encountered in previous years,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 984 (1995) of 11 April 1995 and the views expressed on it,

Recalling its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolutions 45/54 of 4 December 1990, 46/32 of 6 December 1991, 47/50 of 9 December 1992, 48/73 of 16 December 1993, 49/73 of 15 December 1994 and 50/68 of 12 December 1995,

1. *Reaffirms* the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties as regards evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out;

3. *Appeals* to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;

4. *Recommends* that further intensive efforts should be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, should be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties;

5. *Recommends also* that the Conference on Disarmament should actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/44. Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[21]

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[17] Ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/48/27), para. 39.

[18] See A/50/752-S/1995/1035, annex III; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/1035.

[19] See A/47/675-S/24816, annex, chap. II, para. 47; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1992*, document S/24816.

[20] See A/46/486-S/23055, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1991*, document S/23055.

[21] Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[22] in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions, and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,[23] and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Regretting the inability of the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee in 1996,

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

Recalling in this context its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, *inter alia*, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remains the fundamental task of the Ad Hoc Committee and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space, and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;[21]

2. *Reaffirms its recognition*, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that this legal regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness, and that it is important strictly to comply with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee with a negotiating mandate at the beginning of its 1997 session, taking into account the work undertaken since 1985, with a view to conducting negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed

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[22] Resolution S-10/2.

[23] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/49/27), sect. III.D (para. 5 of the quoted text).

to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral or multilateral negotiations relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/45. General and complete disarmament

A

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, the annex to which contains the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Noting the provisions of article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty regarding the convening of Review Conferences at five-year intervals,

Recalling the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of Parties to the Treaty[24] in which it was agreed that Treaty Review Conferences should continue to be held every five years and that, accordingly, the next Review Conference should be held in the year 2000,

Recalling also the decision of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference that the first Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2000 Review Conference should be held in 1997,

Recalling further its resolution 50/70 Q of 12 December 1995, in which it took note of the various decisions of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference,

1. *Takes note* of the decision of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, following appropriate consultations, to hold the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee in New York from 7 to 18 April 1997;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

B

The nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

The General Assembly,

Determined to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Stressing the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco,[25] Rarotonga,[26] Bangkok[27] and Pelindaba,[28] establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty,[29]

Recalling that, at its first special session devoted to disarmament, the General Assembly declared, *inter alia*, that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of agreements or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the zone concerned constitutes an important disarmament measure; that the States participating in such zones should undertake to comply fully with all the objectives, purposes and principles of the agreements or arrangements establishing the zones, thus ensuring that they are genuinely free from nuclear weapons; and that the nuclear-weapon States are called upon to give undertakings, negotiated with the competent authority of each zone, in particular, to respect strictly the status of the nuclear-weapon-free zone and to refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against the States of the zone,

Recalling also that the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[30] reaffirmed the conviction that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, enhances global and regional peace and security, and encouraged the development of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as in the Middle East,

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[24] *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex, decision 1.

[25] Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[26] South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty.

[27] Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

[28] African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

[29] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

[30] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)).

Recalling further the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to rights of passage through maritime space,

1. *Recognizes with satisfaction* that the Antarctic Treaty [29] and the treaties of Tlatelolco, [25] Rarotonga, [26] Bangkok[27] and Pelindaba[28] are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

2. *Calls* for the ratification of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba by all regional States, and calls upon all concerned States to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so;

3. *Calls upon* all States to consider proposals to establish further nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in areas such as the Middle East and South Asia, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, to advance the process of nuclear disarmament with the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons;

4. *Calls upon* the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, in order to promote the common goals envisaged in those treaties, to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation, including the consolidation of the status of the nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

5. *Encourages* the competent authorities of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to such treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of these goals;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "The nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

C

Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 I of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 F of 12 December 1995,

Recalling also that, there being a consensus to do so in each case, three special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament were held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, respectively,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[31] the first special session devoted to disarmament, and the objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Welcoming the recent positive changes in the international landscape, characterized by the end of the cold war, the relaxation of tensions at the global level and the emergence of a new spirit governing relations among nations,

Taking note of paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,[32] which supported the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1997, which would offer an opportunity to review, from a perspective more in tune with the current international situation, the most critical aspects of the process of disarmament and to mobilize the international community and public opinion in favour of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons,

Taking note also of the interim report of the 1996 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission on the item entitled "Exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament",[33]

Desiring to build upon the constructive exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament during the 1996 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission,

Reiterating its conviction that a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament can set the future course of action in the field of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Emphasizing the importance of multilateralism in the process of disarmament and arms control, peace and security,

Noting that, with the completion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[34] and the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,[35] as well as of amended Protocol II[36] and new Protocol IV[36] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be

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[31] Resolution S-10/2.

[32] A/50/752-S/1995/1035, annex III; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/1035.

[33] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/51/42), para. 30.

[34] Ibid., *Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/47/27), appendix I.

[35] See resolution 50/245.

[36] See CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I).

Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[37] the following years would be opportune for the international community to start the process of reviewing the state of affairs in the entire field of disarmament and arms control in the post-cold-war era,

1. *Decides*, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its objectives and agenda, to convene its fourth special session devoted to disarmament in 1999;

2. *Notes* the view of the Secretary-General that preparations for the special session could begin in 1997;

3. *Decides*, subject to the outcome of deliberations concerning the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament at the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, to convene a meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament before the end of the fifty-first session of the Assembly in order to set an exact date and to decide on organizational matters relating to the convening of the special session, and requests the Preparatory Committee to submit its progress report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Preparatory Committee with all necessary assistance, including essential background information and relevant documents as necessary;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament" and, subject to the outcome of deliberations at the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, to take up the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

D

Relationship between disarmament and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly[31] concerning the relationship between disarmament and development,

Recalling also the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,[38]

Recalling further its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 G of 12 December 1995,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,[32]

Stressing the growing importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations,

1. *Acknowledges* the note by the Secretary-General[39] and actions taken in accordance with the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;[38]

2. *Urges* the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever widening gap between developed and developing countries;

3. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1997, their views and proposals for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,[40] as well as any other views and proposals with a view to achieving the goals of the action programme, within the framework of current international relations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

E

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 M of 12 December 1995,

Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary duly to take into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on

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[37] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

[38] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8.

[39] A/51/207.

[40] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8, para. 35.

Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and the implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note of the preamble to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty,[41] opened for signature on 24 September 1996, concerning the contribution to environmental protection provided by the Treaty,

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,[42] *inter alia*, to consider effective methods to control radiological means of warfare, in the interest of averting the hazards of using radioactive wastes as a means of radiological warfare, and of their impact on international security and environmental preservation,

Recognizing that prevention of the nuclear arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof contributes to keeping the peace and protecting the environment,

Convinced of the general interest of mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and the need to preserve the world's environment in this context,

Desirous that, in the interest of mankind, Antarctica should continue to be used for exclusively peaceful purposes and that the balance of that important ecosystem should be preserved,

Taking note of the environment-related provisions laid down in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,[34]

Convinced of the importance of strengthening the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction[43] through the adoption of appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and the drafting of proposals to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument, on the basis of the findings of the ad hoc working group set up to that effect, and which, *inter alia*, should take into account the necessity of ensuring the preservation of the environment,

Conscious that the international transfer of relevant technologies, services and know-how for peaceful purposes can contribute positively to abiding by environmental norms in the framework of the disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

1. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to take every necessary measure to include the relevant environmental norms and provisions in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation, taking into account the need to preserve the world's environment and to ensure the strict observance of such environmental norms and provisions during the entire process of implementation of the provisions of the aforementioned treaties and agreements, particularly during the process of destruction of the arms covered by them;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention, as well as express provisions relating to environmental protection;

3. *Expresses grave concern* regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States and for preserving the environment;

4. *Urges* States parties to comply strictly with the provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof,[44] and calls on States that possess nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction that have not yet done so, to become parties to the Treaty, as a major contribution to international peace and the ecologically rational use of the environment;

5. *Calls upon* all States, especially those that have major space programmes, to contribute actively to the attainment of the goals of using outer space for peaceful purposes, preserving the world's environment and preventing the arms race in outer space and, for the sake of international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation, to refrain from acting counter to the spirit of that international legal instrument;

6. *Welcomes* the concrete measures taken by several countries to ensure compliance with the Antarctic Treaty,[29] and calls upon all countries to refrain from carrying out any activity counter to the spirit of that international legal instrument;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of the compliance by all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,[34] and calls upon them to cooperate and to preserve the environment in the process of the implementation of the Convention in all its relevant aspects;

8. *Urges* States parties to consider all the relevant norms related to the protection of the environment in implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the

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[41] A/50/1027, annex.

[42] The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament became the Committee on Disarmament as from the tenth special session of the General Assembly. The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

[43] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

[44] Resolution 2660 (XXV), annex.

Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;[43]

9. *Calls upon* States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress in the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

F

Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991 and its decision 47/419 of 9 December 1992 on international arms transfers,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/75 F and H of 16 December 1993, 49/75 M of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 J of 12 December 1995 on measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms,

Recognizing that the availability of massive quantities of conventional weapons and especially their illicit transfer, often associated with destabilizing activities, are most disturbing and dangerous phenomena, in particular for the internal situation of affected States and the violation of human rights,

Bearing in mind that in certain situations mercenaries, terrorists and child soldiers are supplied with weapons acquired from illicit transfers of conventional arms,

Convinced that peace and security are inextricably interlinked with and in some cases imperative for economic development and reconstruction, including in war-stricken countries,

Realizing the urgent need to resolve conflicts and to diminish tension, and to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security,

Recognizing the curbing of the illicit transfer of arms as an important contribution to the relaxation of tension and peaceful reconciliation processes,

Stressing the need for effective national control measures on the transfer of conventional weapons,

Convinced that effective measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms will help enhance regional and international peace, security and economic development,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Disarmament Commission of the report on international arms transfers, with particular reference to General Assembly resolution 46/36 H, as well as a text entitled "Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991";[45]

2. *Invites* Member States:

(*a*) To enact adequate national legislation and/or regulations and adopt administrative procedures in order to exercise effective control over armaments and the export and import of arms, *inter alia*, with the aim of preventing trafficking in illicit arms and bringing offenders to justice;

(*b*) To provide the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1997, with relevant information on national control measures on arms transfers with a view to preventing illicit arms transfers;

3. *Also invites* Member States to provide the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1997, with their views on:

(*a*) Effective ways and means of collecting weapons transferred illicitly, in particular in the light of experience gained by the United Nations;

(*b*) Concrete proposals concerning measures at national, regional and international levels to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report containing the views expressed by Member States;

(*b*) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the effective implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

G

Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 C of 12 December 1995,

Recognizing that the end of the cold war has increased the possibility of freeing the world from the fear of nuclear war,

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[45] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/51/42), para. 29 and annex I.

Appreciating the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[46] to which Belarus, Kazakstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America are party, and looking forward to the early entry into force of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[47] which was ratified by the United States of America,

Welcoming the reductions in the nuclear arsenals of other nuclear-weapon States,

Welcoming also the decision of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to extend the Treaty indefinitely,[48] taken without a vote, as well as the decisions on strengthening the review process for the Treaty[24] and on the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament,[49]

Noting the reference in the decision on the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament to the importance of the following measures for the full realization and effective implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[50] including the programme of action as reflected below:

(*a*) The completion by the Conference on Disarmament of the negotiations on a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty no later than 1996, and utmost restraint that should be exercised by the nuclear-weapon States pending the entry into force of that treaty;

(*b*) The immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on a non-discriminatory and universally applicable convention banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with the statement of the Special Coordinator of the Conference on Disarmament and the mandate contained therein;

(*c*) The determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Welcoming the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly[35] and its opening for signature at the beginning of the current session,

Recalling that nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of nuclear disarmament are key elements in the maintenance of international peace and security, which is one of the most important purposes of the United Nations,

1. *Urges* States not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[50] to accede to it at the earliest possible date, recognizing the importance of universal adherence to the Treaty;

2. *Calls* for the determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and invites them to keep States Members of the United Nations duly informed of the progress and efforts made;

3. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to make their best efforts for a smooth start of the strengthened review process of the Treaty as they convene their first Preparatory Committee, in 1997, with a view to the success of the next Review Conference which should be held in the year 2000;

4. *Calls upon* all States to implement fully their commitments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

H

Transparency in armaments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, 48/75 E of 16 December 1993, 49/75 C of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 D of 12 December 1995,

Continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States and that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms[51] constitutes an important step forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters,

Welcoming the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the Register,[52] which includes the returns of Member States for 1995,

Welcoming also the response of Member States to the request contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L to provide data on their imports and exports of arms, as well as available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies,

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[46] *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 16: 1991 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.IX.1), appendix II.

[47] Ibid., vol. 18: 1993 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.IX.1), appendix II.

[48] *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex, decision 3.

[49] Ibid., decision 2.

[50] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[51] See resolution 46/36 L.

[52] A/51/300 and Add.1 and 2.

Welcoming further the report of the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 session on the subject of international arms transfers,[53] which was adopted by consensus,

Stressing that the continuing operation of the Register and its further development should be reviewed in order to secure a Register that is capable of attracting the widest possible participation,

1. *Reaffirms its determination* to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms[51] as provided for in paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to provide the requested data and information for the Register, on the basis of resolutions 46/36 L and 47/52 L and the annex and appendices to the 1994 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development,[54] to the Secretary-General by 30 April annually;

3. *Reaffirms* its decision, with a view to the further development of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review, and, to that end:

(*a*) Recalls its request to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction;

(*b*) Recalls its request to the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be convened in 1997, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account the report of the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 session on the subject of international arms transfers,[53] the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and the 1994 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development,[54] with a view to a decision at its fifty-second session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register;

5. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to consider continuing its work undertaken in the field of transparency in armaments;

6. *Reiterates it call upon* all Member States to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the progress made in implementing the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

I

Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions,

Recognizing the fundamental changes that have taken place with respect to international security, which have permitted agreements on deep reductions in the nuclear armaments of the States possessing the largest inventories of such weapons,

Stressing that it is the responsibility and the obligation of all States to contribute to the process of the relaxation of international tension and to the strengthening of international peace and security through disarmament, in particular, nuclear disarmament, which remains the highest priority of our times,

Stressing also that, as stipulated in many agreements and recently reiterated by the unanimous decision by the International Court of Justice,[55] there exists the obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Welcoming the number of positive developments that have created opportunities for nuclear disarmament, in particular, the completion of the implementation of the 1987 Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles,[56] removing such weapons from deployed status, the conclusion of bilateral agreements on de-targeting strategic missiles, the cooperative efforts to ensure the safety, security and environmentally sound destruction of nuclear weapons as well as the efforts to deactivate all nuclear delivery systems or other steps to remove them from alert status,

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[53] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/51/42), annex I.

[54] A/49/316.

[55] *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion* (A/51/218, annex); see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 4* (A/51/4), paras. 176-183.

[56] *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 12: 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.IX.2), appendix VII.

Noting that there are still significant nuclear arsenals and that the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons, rests with all nuclear-weapon States, in particular, those possessing the largest stockpiles,

Recalling the expressed commitment by the nuclear-weapon States to pursue systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of the elimination of those weapons, which should be carried out within a time-bound framework,

Recalling also the agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States of America to intensify their dialogue to compare conceptual approaches and to develop concrete steps to adapt the nuclear forces and practices on both sides to the changed international security situation, including the possibility, after ratification of the Treaty on the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[47] of further reductions of and limitations on remaining nuclear forces,

Taking note of the joint statement of 10 May 1995 by the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems,

Welcoming the reductions made by other nuclear-weapon States in some of their nuclear-weapons programmes, and encouraging all nuclear-weapon States to consider appropriate measures relating to nuclear disarmament,

Affirming that bilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament should facilitate and complement each other,

1. *Welcomes* the entry into force and implementation of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[46] signed in Moscow on 31 July 1991 by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, including the Protocol to that Treaty, signed at Lisbon on 23 May 1992 by the parties thereto, and the exchange of documents of ratification between the United States of America, Belarus, Kazakstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on 5 December 1994 at Budapest, as well as the ratification by the United States of America of the 1993 Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[47] and urges the parties concerned to make further efforts to bring that Treaty into force at the earliest possible date;

2. *Encourages* the United States of America and the Russian Federation to continue their efforts aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons and strategic offensive arms on the basis of existing agreements, and welcomes the contributions that other States are making to such cooperation as well;

3. *Welcomes* the removal of all nuclear weapons from the territory of Kazakstan, as from June 1995, and from the territory of Ukraine, as from June 1996;

4. *Encourages and supports* the Russian Federation and the United States of America in intensifying their work for deep reductions in their nuclear armaments, and calls upon those States to accord the highest priority to this work, in order to contribute to the elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework;

5. *Invites* the Russian Federation and the United States of America to keep the States Members of the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament duly informed of progress in their discussions and in the implementation of their strategic offensive arms agreements and unilateral decisions;

6. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to take such information into account in the negotiations to be held on nuclear disarmament leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

J

Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res.1153 (XLVIII) of 1988[57] and CM/Res.1225 (L) of 1989,[58] adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

Welcoming resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session,[59]

Welcoming also resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/6, adopted on 23 September 1994 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-eighth regular session,[60] inviting the Board of Governors and the Director General of the Agency to commence preparations for a convention on the safety of radioactive waste management, and noting the progress that has been made in that regard,

Taking note of the commitment by the participants at the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, to ban the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes,[61]

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the

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[57] See A/43/398, annex I.

[58] See A/44/603, annex I.

[59] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Thirty-fourth Regular Session*, 17-21 September 1990 (GC(XXXIV)/RESOLUTIONS (1990)).

[60] Ibid., *Thirty-eighth Regular Session*, 19-23 September 1994 (GC(XXXVIII)/RES/DEC (1994)).

[61] A/51/131, annex I, para. 20.

Committee on Disarmament,[42] *inter alia*, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity,[62] on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, in particular for the security of developing countries,

Recalling all its resolutions on the matter since its forty-third session in 1988, including its resolution 50/70 E of 12 December 1995,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[31] the first special session devoted to disarmament,

1. *Takes note* of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to a future convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons;[63]

2. *Expresses grave concern* regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

3. *Calls upon* all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

4. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

5. *Also requests* the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session the progress recorded in the negotiations on this subject;

6. *Takes note* of resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa;

7. *Expresses the hope* that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

8. *Welcomes* the current efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the preparation of a draft convention on the safe management of radioactive wastes and the appropriate recommendations made by the participants at the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, in particular their call on all States generating nuclear wastes with nuclear installations to participate actively in the preparation of this convention under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency and to encourage its effective finalization and prompt adoption;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

K

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/58 P of 4 December 1990, 46/36 I of 6 December 1991, 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 I of 16 December 1993, 49/75 N of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 K of 12 December 1995 on regional disarmament,

Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

Noting that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly,[31]

Taking note of the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1993 substantive session,[64]

Welcoming the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

Taking note of the recent proposals for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation at the regional and subregional levels,

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[62] See A/46/390, annex I.

[63] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/51/27), sect. III.F.

[64] Ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/48/42), annex II.

Recognizing the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of smaller States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. *Stresses* that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. *Affirms* that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. *Calls upon* States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. *Supports and encourages* efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Regional disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

L

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, 47/52 G and J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 H and J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 H of 12 December 1995,

Considering that the illicit circulation of massive quantities of small arms throughout the world impedes development and is a source of increased insecurity,

Considering also that the illicit international transfer of small arms and their accumulation in many countries constitute a threat to the populations and to national and regional security and are a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Basing itself on the statement of the Secretary-General relating to the request of Mali concerning United Nations assistance for the collection of small arms,

Gravely concerned at the extent of the insecurity and banditry linked to the illicit circulation of small arms in Mali and the other affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion,

Taking note of the first conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions sent to the affected countries of the subregion by the Secretary-General to study the best way of curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collection,

Taking note also of the interest shown by other States of the subregion in receiving a United Nations advisory mission,

Noting the actions taken and those recommended at the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers and Bamako to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of the illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion;

2. *Also welcomes* the action taken by the Secretary-General in implementation of this initiative in the context of General Assembly resolution 40/151 H of 16 December 1985;

3. *Thanks* the Governments concerned in the subregion for the substantial support that they have given to the United Nations advisory missions, and welcomes the declared readiness of other States to receive the United Nations Advisory Mission;

4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 G and of the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, to curb the illicit circulation of small arms and to collect such arms in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

5. *Notes* that, as part of its efforts to halt the flow of small arms into Mali and the Saharo-Sahelian subregion, the Malian Government oversaw the destruction, at the "Flame of Peace" ceremony held at Timbuktu on 27 March 1996, of thousands of small arms handed over by ex-combatants of the armed movements of northern Mali;

6. *Encourages* the setting up in the countries of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion of national commissions against the proliferation of small arms;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to examine the issue and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

M

Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, in which it requested the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons is permitted in any circumstance under international law,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[50] particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, in which it called upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Recalling also the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[49] and in particular the objective of determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons,

Recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and welcoming every effort towards this end,

Reaffirming also the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996,

Regretting the absence of multilaterally negotiated and legally binding security assurances against the threat or use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States,

Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to all humanity and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all life on Earth,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Court of Justice for responding to the request made by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

2. *Takes note* of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996;[65]

3. *Underlines* the unanimous conclusion of the Court that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

4. *Calls upon* all States to fulfil that obligation immediately by commencing multilateral negotiations in 1997 leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear-weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary assistance to support the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

N

Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purpose of the United Nations to maintain peace and security and, in this context, reaffirming in particular the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, as well as the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps in order to strengthen that role,

Convinced that a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures, such as, *inter alia*, arms control, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, confidence-building measures, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, demining and conversion, often is a prerequisite to maintaining and consolidating peace and security and thus provides a basis for effective rehabilitation and social and economic development,

Noting in this context the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace"[66] and "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace" in which the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, stressed the urgent need for "practical disarmament in the context of the conflicts the United Nations is actually dealing with and of the weapons, most of them light weapons, that are actually killing people in the hundreds of thousands",[67] and in which, with regard to practical disarmament measures, the Secretary-General stated that "the assembly, control and disposal of weapons has been a central feature of most of the comprehensive peace settlements in which the United Nations has played a peacekeeping role",[68]

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[65] A/51/218, annex.

[66] A/47/277-S/24111; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992*, document S/24111.

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 M of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 B and 50/70 J of 12 December 1995 concerning small arms and light weapons, as well as the control and the illicit transfer of such weapons, and, in this context, encouraging the work of the United Nations expert panel on small arms,

Welcoming the adoption by the Disarmament Commission of the "Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991",[53]

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 H of 12 December 1995, in which it welcomed the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion, as well as the action taken by the Secretary-General in the implementation of that initiative,

Welcoming, in this context, the measures taken and other ongoing efforts by the Central African States to promote, within the framework of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, confidence-building and conflict prevention in their subregion,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 D of 12 December 1995 on transparency in armaments, and continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency could contribute to confidence-building and security among States,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/70 O and 50/74 of 12 December 1995 and 50/82 of 14 December 1995 addressing the global landmine problem,

Welcoming the adoption on 3 May 1996 of an amended Protocol II by the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[36] as a further step, and also welcoming respective national measures adopted by a growing number of States,

1. *Stresses* the particular importance of certain practical disarmament measures, such as the collection, control and disposal of arms, especially small arms and light weapons, coupled with restraint over the production and procurement as well as transfers of such arms, the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, demining and conversion, for the maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in areas that have suffered from conflict;

2. *Underlines* the important role of the United Nations in providing a political framework for such practical disarmament measures in those areas and in facilitating their implementation;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of experience gained from conflict resolution, to make recommendations and suggestions for an integrated approach to such practical disarmament measures, taking also into account the work of the United Nations expert panel on small arms, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in this connection, to seek the views of Member States on this subject and to include them in his report;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, as well as regional arrangements or agencies, to assist the Secretary-General in his endeavours in this regard and to contribute actively to the implementation of such practical disarmament measures;

6. *Encourages* United Nations organs and agencies to join in this task within the framework of their responsibilities, in particular the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the basis of its Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

O

Nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat, and its resolution 50/70 P of 12 December 1995 on nuclear disarmament,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Determined to achieve the objective of prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and their destruction, and to conclude such an international convention or conventions at an early date,

Bearing in mind paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[31] the first special session devoted to disarmament, calling for the urgent negotiation of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems, and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed time-frames, wherever feasible, for progressive and balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

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[67] A/50/60-S/1995/1, para. 60; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1995*, document S/1995/1.

[68] Ibid., para. 62.

Taking note of the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/245 on 10 September 1996,

Recognizing that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and any proposed treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices must constitute disarmament measures, and not only non-proliferation measures, and that these measures, together with an international legal instrument on adequate security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States and an international convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, must be integral steps leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Recognizing also that the end of the cold war has brought about favourable conditions for creating a world free of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[46] to which Belarus, Kazakstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America are States parties,

Welcoming also the conclusion of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms[47] by the Russian Federation and the United States of America and the ratification of that Treaty by the United States of America, and looking forward to the full implementation of the START I[46] and START II[47] Treaties by the States parties, and to further concrete steps for nuclear disarmament by all nuclear-weapon States,

Noting with appreciation the unilateral measures by the nuclear-weapon States for nuclear arms limitation, and encouraging them to undertake further such measures,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and that bilateral negotiations can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

Taking note of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice dated 8 July 1996 on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*,[65] and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all Judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Taking note also of paragraph 84 and other relevant recommendations in the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,[32] calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee to commence negotiations early in 1996 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework, and paragraph 26 of the Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegations of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 25 September 1996,[69]

Expressing its regret that the Conference on Disarmament has not been able as yet to establish an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, as called for in Assembly resolution 50/70 P,

Taking note of the proposal of twenty-eight delegations to the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21 for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons,[70] and expressing its conviction that this proposal will be an important input and will contribute to negotiations on this question in the Conference,

1. *Recognizes* that, in view of the end of the cold war and recent political developments, the time is now opportune for all nuclear-weapon States to undertake effective disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons within a time-bound framework;

2. *Recognizes also* that there is a genuine need to de-emphasize the role of nuclear weapons, and to review and revise nuclear doctrines accordingly;

3. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

4. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and a phased programme of progressive and balanced deep reductions of nuclear weapons, and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons within a time-bound framework;

5. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations early in 1997 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework through a nuclear weapons convention;

6. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account in this regard the proposal of the twenty-eight

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[69] A/51/473-S/1996/839, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/839.

[70] A/C.1/51/12, annex.

delegations for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

P

Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 43/74 of 7 December 1988,

Determined to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling the long-standing determination of the international community to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical and biological weapons as well as the continuing support for measures to uphold the authority of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,[71] as expressed by consensus in many previous resolutions,

Welcoming the end of the cold war, the ensuing easing of international tension and the strengthening of trust between States,

Welcoming also the recent initiatives by some States parties to withdraw their reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol,

1. *Renews its previous call* to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,[71] and reaffirms the vital necessity of upholding its provisions;

2. *Calls upon* those States that continue to maintain reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw those reservations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

Q

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 O of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 L of 12 December 1995,

Recognizing the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion,

Aware that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

Desirous of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

Noting with particular interest the initiatives taken in this regard in different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe,[72] which is a cornerstone of European security,

Believing that militarily significant States, and States with larger military capabilities, have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

Believing also that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

1. *Decides* to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, as a first step, to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

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[71] League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

[72] CD/1064.

R

Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions,

Recognizing the fundamental changes that have taken place with respect to international security, which have permitted agreements on deep reductions in the nuclear armaments of the States possessing the largest inventories of such weapons,

Mindful that it is the responsibility and obligation of all States to contribute to the process of the relaxation of international tension and to the strengthening of international peace and security and, in this connection, to adopt and implement measures towards the attainment of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Appreciating a number of positive developments in the field of nuclear disarmament, in particular the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles,[56] and the treaties on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms,

Appreciating also the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[50] and acknowledging the importance of the determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Welcoming the steps that have already been taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America to begin the process of reducing the number of nuclear weapons and removing such weapons from a deployed status, and bilateral agreements on the issue of de-targeting strategic nuclear missiles,

Noting the new climate of relations between the States of the former Soviet Union and the United States of America, which permits them to intensify their cooperative efforts to ensure the safety, security and environmentally sound destruction of nuclear weapons,

Noting also that the Russian Federation and the United States of America concurred that, once the Treaty between them on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms[47] was ratified, they would proceed to deactivate all nuclear delivery systems to be reduced under the Treaty by removing their nuclear warheads or taking other steps to remove them from alert status,

Noting further the commitment between the Russian Federation and the United States of America to intensify their dialogue to compare conceptual approaches and to develop concrete steps to adapt the nuclear forces and practices on both sides to the changed international security situation, including the possibility, after ratification of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, of further reductions of and limitations on remaining nuclear forces,

Taking note of the joint statement of 10 May 1995 by the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems,

Recalling the Moscow Summit Declaration on Nuclear Safety and Security of April 1996,[73]

Urging early action to complete the ratification of the Treaty on the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms and further intensification of efforts to accelerate the implementation of agreements and unilateral decisions relating to nuclear arms reduction,

Welcoming the significant reductions made by other nuclear-weapon States, and encouraging all nuclear-weapon States to consider appropriate measures relating to nuclear disarmament,

1. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[46] signed in Moscow on 31 July 1991 by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, including the Protocol to that Treaty, signed at Lisbon on 23 May 1992 by the parties thereto, and the exchange of documents of ratification between the United States of America, Belarus, Kazakstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on 5 December 1994 at Budapest;

2. *Also welcomes* the signing of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms[47] in Moscow on 3 January 1993, and urges the parties to take the steps necessary to bring that Treaty into force at the earliest possible date;

3. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the entry into force and ongoing implementation of the 1991 Treaty as well as the ratification by the United States of America of the 1993 Treaty, and expresses the hope that it will soon be possible for the Russian Federation to ratify that Treaty also;

4. *Expresses further satisfaction* at the continuing implementation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles,[56] in particular at the completion by the parties of the destruction of all their declared missiles subject to elimination under the Treaty;

5. *Welcomes* the removal of all nuclear weapons from the territory of Kazakstan as of 1 June 1995, and from the territory of Ukraine as of 1 June 1996;

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[73] A/51/131, annex I.

6. *Encourages* the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Belarus, Kazakstan and Ukraine to continue their cooperative efforts aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons and strategic offensive arms on the basis of existing agreements, and welcomes the contributions that other States are making to such cooperation as well;

7. *Welcomes* the accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[50], of Belarus, Kazakstan and Ukraine as non-nuclear-weapon States, which thereby provided notable enhancement to the non-proliferation regime;

8. *Encourages and supports* the Russian Federation and the United States of America in their efforts to reduce their nuclear weapons and to continue to give those efforts the highest priority in order to contribute to the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons;

9. *Invites* the Russian Federation and the United States of America to keep other States Members of the United Nations duly informed of progress in their discussions and in the implementation of their strategic offensive arms agreements and unilateral decisions.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

S

An international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines

The General Assembly,

Recalling with satisfaction its resolutions 48/75 K of 16 December 1993, 49/75 D of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 O of 12 December 1995, in which it, *inter alia*, urged States to implement moratoriums on the export of anti-personnel landmines,

Also recalling with satisfaction its resolutions 49/75 D and 50/70 O, in which it, *inter alia*, established as a goal of the international community the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines,

Noting that, according to the 1995 report of the Secretary-General entitled "Assistance in mine clearance",[74] it is estimated that there are one hundred and ten million landmines in the ground in more than sixty countries throughout the world,

Noting also that, according to the same report, the global landmine crisis continues to worsen as an estimated two million new landmines are laid each year, while only an estimated one hundred and fifty thousand were cleared in 1995,

Expressing deep concern that anti-personnel landmines kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and the return of internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement,

Gravely concerned about the suffering and casualties caused to non-combatants as a result of the proliferation, as well as the indiscriminate and irresponsible use, of anti-personnel landmines,

Recalling with satisfaction its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 A of 23 December 1994 and 50/82 of 14 December 1995 calling for assistance in mine clearance,

Welcoming the recent decisions taken at the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, particularly with respect to the amended Protocol II[36] to the Convention, and believing that the amended Protocol is an essential part of the global effort to address problems caused by the proliferation, as well as the indiscriminate and irresponsible use, of anti-personnel landmines,

Welcoming also the adoption of the declaration entitled "Towards a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines" by participants at the Ottawa International Strategy Conference on 5 October 1996,[75] including its call for the earliest possible conclusion of a legally binding international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines, and further welcoming the follow-on conference at Brussels in June 1997,

Welcoming further the recent decisions taken by States to adopt various bans, moratoriums or other restrictions on the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, and other measures taken unilaterally as well as multilaterally,

Recognizing the need to conclude an international agreement to ban all anti-personnel landmines as soon as possible,

1. *Urges* States to pursue vigorously an effective, legally binding international agreement to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines with a view to completing the negotiation as soon as possible;

2. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[37] and Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996,[36] and urges all States immediately to comply to the fullest extent possible with the applicable rules of Protocol II as amended;

3. *Welcomes* the various bans, moratoriums or other restrictions already declared by States on anti-personnel landmines;

4. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to declare and implement such bans, moratoriums or other

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[74] A/50/408.

[75] A/C.1/51/10, annex.

restrictions - particularly on operational use and transfer - at the earliest possible date;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on steps taken to complete an international agreement banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, and on other steps taken by Member States to implement such bans, moratoriums or other restrictions and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament";

6. *Requests* Member States to provide the requested information for the report of the Secretary-General on steps taken to complete an international agreement banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, and on other steps taken to implement bans, moratoriums or other restrictions on anti-personnel landmines and to submit such information to the Secretary-General by 15 April 1997.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

T

Status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, in particular resolution 47/39 of 30 November 1992, adopted without a vote, in which it commended the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,[34]

Noting with satisfaction that, since the Convention was opened for signature at a signing ceremony held in Paris from 13 to 15 January 1993, one hundred and sixty States have signed the Convention,

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Convinced of the urgent necessity of universal adherence to the Convention so as to abolish an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, and thus eliminate the risk to mankind of renewed use of these inhumane weapons,

Noting the ongoing work of the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that the required sixty-five instruments of ratification have now been deposited and that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[34] will therefore enter into force on 29 April 1997;

2. *Stresses* the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities should be among the original parties to the Convention and, in this context, the importance of the United States of America and the Russian Federation, having declared possession of chemical weapons, being among the original States parties to the Convention;

3. *Also stresses* that this would promote the full realization and effective implementation of the Convention;

4. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the Convention without delay;

5. *Notes* that the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, at its fourteenth session from 22 to 26 July 1996, entrusted the Chairman of the Commission, in close consultation with its member States, with the task of convening, as necessitated by circumstances in connection with the occurrence of the trigger point, a meeting of the Commission to provide appropriate guidance;

6. *Urges* the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to intensify efforts to complete its remaining work;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/46. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

A

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,[76]

Bearing in mind its various resolutions on the subject, including resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, in which it decided, *inter alia*, that the World Disarmament Campaign should be known thereafter as the "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the "Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme",

Recalling its resolution 49/76 A of 15 December 1994,

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[76] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1st meeting, paras. 110 and 111.

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General of 19 July 1996 on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme,[77]

Deeply concerned by the continuing decrease in contributions to the Programme, which has already affected a number of activities, beginning with the suspension of publications such as the *Disarmament Newsletter* and *Topical Papers*,

1. *Takes note with concern* of the report of the Secretary-General of 19 July 1996 on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;[77]

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the limited resources available to him in disseminating as widely as possible information on arms limitation and disarmament to Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes, and in carrying out a seminar and conference programme;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the Programme, as a significant instrument in enabling developing countries to participate fully in the deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various United Nations bodies;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions to the efforts of the Programme by the United Nations information centres and the regional centres for disarmament;

5. *Recommends* that the Programme focus its efforts:

(*a*) To inform, to educate and to generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action and support for it, including action by the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner, in particular through the continuing publication in all official languages of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* and *Disarmament: A Periodic Review by the United Nations*, and the updating of the *Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements*;

(*b*) To facilitate unimpeded access to and an exchange of information on ideas between the public sector and public interest groups and organizations, and to provide an independent source of balanced and factual information that takes into account a range of views to help further an informed debate on arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(*c*) To organize meetings to facilitate exchanges of views and information between governmental and non-governmental sectors and between governmental and other experts in order to facilitate the search for common ground;

6. *Invites* all Member States to contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

7. *Commends* the Secretary-General for supporting the efforts of universities, other academic institutions and non-governmental organizations active in the educational field in widening the worldwide availability of disarmament education, and invites him to continue to support and cooperate with educational institutions and non-governmental organizations engaged in such efforts, without cost to the regular budget of the United Nations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for the following two years;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

B

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters at Kathmandu and with the mandate of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[78] in which he expresses his belief that the mandate of the Regional Centre not only remains valid but is even more relevant today in the changed international environment,

Commending the useful activities carried out by the Regional Centre in encouraging regional and subregional dialogue for the enhancement of openness, transparency and confidence-building, as well as the promotion of disarmament and security through the organization of regional meetings, which has come to be widely known within the Asia-Pacific region as the "Kathmandu process",

Noting that trends in the post-cold-war era have emphasized the function of the Regional Centre in assisting Member States as they deal with new security concerns and disarmament issues emerging in the region,

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[77] A/51/219.

[78] A/51/445.

Recognizing the need for the Regional Centre to pursue effectively its expanded function,

Expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its organization of substantive regional meetings at Kathmandu and at Hiroshima, Japan, in 1996,

Appreciating highly the important role Nepal has played as the host nation of the headquarters of the Regional Centre,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 50/71 D of 12 December 1995, in particular its strong support for the continued operation and further strengthening of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific as an essential promoter of the regional peace and disarmament dialogue in the Asia-Pacific region known as the "Kathmandu process";

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the political support and financial contribution received by the Regional Centre;

3. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programme of activities of the Regional Centre and its implementation;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the Regional Centre in carrying out its programme of activities;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

C

Regional confidence-building measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Recalling its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990, 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, 47/53 F of 15 December 1992, 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, 49/76 C of 15 December 1994 and 50/71 B of 12 December 1995,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, in that they can contribute to regional disarmament and to international security, in accordance with the principles of the Charter,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Convinced also that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,[79]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures,[80] which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 50/71 B;

2. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in the subregion and to further disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful settlement of disputes in Central Africa;

3. *Also reaffirms its support* for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee held at Yaoundé in July 1992;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that the Committee's programme of work has led to specific actions and measures promoting confidence-building and security in the Central African subregion;

5. *Notes* the holding of the First Summit of Heads of State and Government of Countries Members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, at Yaoundé on 8 July 1996;

6. *Welcomes with great satisfaction* the signature at that Summit of the Non-Aggression Pact between the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee, and reaffirms its conviction that the Pact is likely to contribute

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[79] A/50/474, annex I.

[80] A/51/287.

to the prevention of conflicts and further confidence-building in the Central African subregion;

7. *Invites* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee that have not yet signed the Pact to do so, and encourages all member States to expedite ratification so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

8. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the Final Declaration of the First Summit of the Standing Advisory Committee,[81] which aims at the implementation of the following measures:

(*a*) The promotion of participatory systems of governance as a means of preventing conflicts;

(*b*) The organization, under United Nations auspices, of training seminars for officers in the armed forces, republican guard, gendarmerie and police forces of the Central African States, in order to promote a culture of peace by explaining, once again, their role in a democratic context;

(*c*) The development of a programme to combat illicit arms trafficking, in order to remove this source of insecurity and a threat to the stability of States in the subregion;

(*d*) The setting-up, under United Nations auspices, of an early warning system as the basic instrument for preventive diplomacy in Central Africa;

(*e*) The strengthening of cooperation between States of the subregion and bilateral and multilateral partners on the question of peace and security in Central Africa;

9. *Expresses its conviction* that the democratic process offers a valuable means to build confidence, promote development and prevent conflicts, and welcomes with satisfaction the decision taken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to hold a subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa";

10. *Welcomes* the holding, under United Nations auspices, of the first training seminar for instructors in peace operations, at Yaoundé from 9 to 17 September 1996, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the units specializing in peace operations in the armed forces of the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee;

11. *Expresses its gratitude* to those Governments which responded favourably to the request from the General Assembly and contributed towards financing the aforementioned training seminar;

12. *Emphasizes once again* the importance of continuing with this training programme in order to strengthen the participation of States members of the Standing Advisory Committee in future United Nations peace operations;

13. *Commends* the Secretary-General for having established the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

14. *Appeals* to Member States and governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular the measures and objectives referred to in paragraphs 8, 9 and 12 of the present resolution;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

D

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*,[82]

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that, in paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[83] it is stated that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

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[81] A/51/274-S/1996/631, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Suppplement for July, August and September 1996*, document S/1996/631.

[82] A/51/218, annex.

[83] Resolution S-10/2.

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

Determined to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 1996 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 50/71 E of 12 December 1995,

1. *Reiterates its request* to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations, in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, taking as a possible basis the draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

ANNEX

Draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Alarmed by the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons,

Convinced that any use of nuclear weapons constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity,

Desiring to achieve a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation of all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Determined, therefore, to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Convinced that the present Convention would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Determined to continue negotiations for the achievement of this goal,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The States Parties to the present Convention solemnly undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

Article 2

This Convention shall be of unlimited duration.

Article 3

1. The present Convention shall be open to all States for signature. Any State that does not sign the Convention before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of the present article may accede to it at any time.

2. The present Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The present Convention shall enter into force on the deposit of instruments of ratification by twenty-five Governments, including the Governments of the five nuclear-weapon States, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article.

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited after the entry into force of the Convention, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

5. The depositary shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession and the date of entry into force of this Convention, as well as of the receipt of other notices.

6. The present Convention shall be registered by the depositary in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 4

The present Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the

United Nations, who shall send duly certified copies thereof to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention, opened for signature at __________ on the ______ day of _______ one thousand nine hundred and ____________.

E

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and its resolution 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Reaffirming its resolutions 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994 and 50/71 C of 12 December 1995 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Taking into account the guidelines for international arms transfers adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 substantive session,[84]

Welcoming the activities carried out by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, which have contributed substantially to understanding and cooperation among the African States and have thereby strengthened its role in the areas of peace, disarmament, security and development,

Bearing in mind the financial situation of the Regional Centre as described by the Secretary-General in his report on the activities of the Regional Centre,[85]

Underlining, therefore, the need to provide the Regional Centre with financial stability so as to facilitate the effective planning and implementation of its programmes of activities,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Member States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations that have, so far, contributed to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

2. *Commends* the activities carried out by the Regional Centre in identifying and broadening the understanding of pressing disarmament and security issues in the African region;

3. *Reaffirms its support* for the further operation and strengthening of the Regional Centre, and encourages it to continue to intensify its efforts in promoting cooperation with subregional and regional organizations, as well as among the African States, in order to facilitate the development of effective measures of confidence-building, arms limitation and disarmament, with a view to promoting peace and security;

4. *Appeals once again* to Member States, mainly to African countries, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make regular and appropriate voluntary contributions in order to revitalize the Regional Centre, strengthen its programmes of activities and facilitate the effective implementation of such programmes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of the current financial situation of the Regional Centre, to intensify his efforts in exploring new ways and means of funding, and to continue to provide all necessary support to the Regional Centre for better achievements and results;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Director of the Regional Centre is, as far as possible and within existing resources, locally based in order to revitalize the activities of the Regional Centre;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and on the implementation of the present resolution.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

F

United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision, contained in paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[83] the first special session devoted to disarmament, to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament, as well as its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly,[86] the second special session devoted to disarmament, in which it decided, *inter alia*, to continue the programme,

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[84] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/51/42), annex I.

[85] See A/51/403.

[86] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Annexes*, agenda items 9-13, document A/S-12/32.

Noting with satisfaction that the programme has already trained an appreciable number of public officials selected from geographical regions represented in the United Nations system, most of whom are now in positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament affairs in their respective countries or Governments,

Recalling all the annual resolutions on the matter since the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 1982, including resolution 50/71 A of 12 December 1995,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme, as designed, continues to enable an increased number of public officials, in particular from the developing countries, to acquire more expertise in the sphere of disarmament,

Believing that the forms of assistance available to Member States, in particular to developing countries, under the programme will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral,

1. *Reaffirms* its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly[86] and the report of the Secretary-General[87] approved by the Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Germany and Japan for inviting the 1996 fellows to study selected activities in the field of disarmament, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the overall objectives of the programme;

3. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/47. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

A

Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament[88] and in particular the section concerning the expansion of the membership of the Conference,

Stressing the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral global negotiating body on disarmament,

Convinced that a more representative membership of the Conference on Disarmament from among the United Nations would contribute to the more effective pursuit of disarmament goals affecting the entire international community,

Recalling that, since 1978, when agreement was reached at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament that the membership of the then Committee on Disarmament would be reviewed at regular intervals, there have been thirty-seven applications for membership in the Conference,

Recalling also that, in 1993, the Special Coordinator for Membership of the Conference on Disarmament proposed that twenty-three applicants for membership should be admitted to the Conference and proposed further that a dynamic solution to the question of membership should be pursued,

Recalling further decision CD/1406 of the Conference on Disarmament, adopted at its 739th plenary meeting on 17 June 1996, admitting twenty-three countries as members of the Conference,[89]

Recalling its resolution 50/72 C of 12 December 1995, adopted without a vote, in which it urged that, following the presentation of progress reports by the President of the Conference, the other applicants to date be further considered by the Conference at its 1996 session,

Noting the request of the Conference on Disarmament that its President continue consultations on a further expansion of its membership and report to it at the beginning of its 1997 session,

1. *Recognizes* the legitimate aspirations of all countries that have applied for membership to participate fully in the work of the Conference on Disarmament;

2. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to consider all remaining applications for membership with a view to reaching a decision on its further enlargement before the end of its 1997 session.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

B

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[90]

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[87] A/33/305.

[88] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/51/27).

[89] Ibid., para. 16.

[90] Ibid., *Supplement No. 42* (A/51/42).

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994 and 50/72 D of 12 December 1995,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[90]

2. *Commends* the Disarmament Commission for its adoption by consensus, at its 1996 substantive session, of a set of guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991,[91] which were recommended to the Assembly for consideration;

3. *Endorses* the guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, as adopted by the Disarmament Commission;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Disarmament Commission has made significant progress in the discussions on its agenda item regarding the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

7. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to continue to make every effort to enhance its working methods so as to enable it to give focused consideration to a limited number of priority issues in the field of disarmament, bearing in mind the decision it has taken to move its agenda towards a three-item phased approach;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[92] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[93]

9. *Recommends* that, pursuant to the adopted three-item phased approach, the Disarmament Commission, at its 1996 organizational session, adopt the following items for consideration at its 1997 substantive session:

(*a*) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned;

(*b*) The fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(*c*) [To be added];[94]

10. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding four weeks during 1997 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[88] together with all the official records of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

C

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[88]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

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[91] Ibid., annex I.

[92] Resolution S-10/2.

[93] A/CN.10/137.

[94] At its 208th plenary meeting, on 11 December 1996, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 1997 substantive session, including a third substantive item entitled "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N".

Considering, in this respect, that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Welcomes* the determination of the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items of its agenda;

3. *Also welcomes* the decision taken by the Conference on Disarmament on 17 June 1996 to expand its membership with the admission of twenty-three new members;[89]

4. *Encourages* the Conference on Disarmament to continue further review of its membership;

5. *Also encourages* the Conference on Disarmament to intensify further the ongoing review of its agenda and methods of work;

6. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to make every effort to reach a consensus on its agenda and programme of work at the beginning of its 1997 session;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

8. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/48. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the relevant United Nations resolutions,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the latest of which is resolution GC(40)RES/22 adopted on 20 September 1996, and noting the danger of nuclear proliferation, especially in areas of tension,

Cognizant that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

Mindful of the importance of placing all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,[95] in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty[96] and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

Recalling also the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,[95] in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet party to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

Noting that, since the adoption of the aforementioned resolution and decision on 11 May 1995, Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates have become parties to the Treaty, and that Oman will become a party to the Treaty at the earliest date, and noting also that Israel shall be the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty and has not declared its intention to do so,

Concerned about threats posed to security and stability by the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the region,

Stressing the importance of undertaking confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to consolidate the non-proliferation regime and enhance peace and security in the region,

Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the General Assembly[97] and its signature by one hundred and thirty-two States, including a number of States in the region,

1. *Welcomes* the accession of Djibouti to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[96] on 22 August 1996, as well as the decision of Oman, expressed by its

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[95] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex.

[96] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[97] See resolution 50/245.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs before the General Assembly on 1 October 1996,[98] to accede to the Treaty;

2. *Calls upon* the only State in the region that is not yet party to the Treaty and has not declared its intention to do so, to accede to the Treaty without further delay, and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/49. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/74 of 12 December 1995 and previous resolutions referring to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[99]

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 10 October 1980, of the Convention, together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I),[99] the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[99] and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III),[99] which entered into force on 2 December 1983,

Also recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 13 October 1995, of the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),[100]

Reaffirming its conviction that a general and verifiable agreement on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons would significantly reduce the suffering of civilians and combatants,

Noting that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by the existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols,

Welcoming the fact that the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects met at resumed sessions at Geneva from 15 to 19 January 1996 and from 22 April to 3 May 1996 and concluded its work,

Particularly welcoming the adoption on 3 May 1996 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II),[101]

Recalling the desire expressed by the States party to the Convention that all States, pending the entry into force of the amended Protocol, respect and ensure respect for the substantive provisions of the amended Protocol to the fullest extent possible,

Also recalling the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto,

Welcoming the national measures adopted by an increasing number of Member States relating to bans, moratoriums or restrictions on the transfer, use or production of anti-personnel landmines or to the reduction of existing stockpiles of such mines,

Desirous of reinforcing international cooperation in the area of prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons, in particular for the removal of minefields, mines and booby traps,

Recalling, in this respect, its resolution 50/82 of 14 December 1995 and previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance,

Noting with appreciation contributions pledged to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance,

1. *Registers its satisfaction* with the report of the Secretary-General;[102]

2. *Welcomes* the fact that additional States have ratified or accepted the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, which was opened for signature in New York on 10 April 1981, or have acceded to the Convention;

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[98] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Plenary Meetings*, 16th meeting.

[99] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

[100] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex A.

[101] Ibid., annex B.

[102] A/51/254.

3. *Urgently calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention and its Protocols, and upon successor States to take appropriate measures so that ultimately adherence to these instruments will be universal;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto, to continue to inform it periodically of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention and the Protocols;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the final report of the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, adopted at Geneva on 3 May 1996;[103]

6. *Commends* the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[101] to all States, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date, and calls, in particular, on the States parties to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

7. *Again commends* the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)[100] to all States, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date, and calls, in particular, on the States parties to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/50. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 50/75 of 12 December 1995,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Bearing in mind all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,

Recognizing the efforts made so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminate the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security,

Recognizing also the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East,

Noting the developments in the Middle East peace process that will lead to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region and therefore to promoting confidence-building measures and a good-neighbourly spirit among the countries of the area,

Expressing satisfaction at the growing awareness of the need for more joint efforts by all Mediterranean countries so as to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[104]

Expressing its concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on this item,[105]

1. *Reaffirms* that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the

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[103] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I).

[104] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[105] A/51/230 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Commends* the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity;

4. *Encourages* Mediterranean countries to strengthen such efforts through, *inter alia*, a lasting, multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region;

5. *Recognizes* that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development as well as other obstacles in the Mediterranean area will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

6. *Recognizes also* that respect and greater understanding among cultures will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries;

7. *Calls upon* all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament, thus creating the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region;

8. *Encourages* all States of the region to favour the necessary conditions for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, *inter alia*, in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures as well as by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;

9. *Encourages* the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, which poses a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation;

10. *Invites* all States of the region to address, through various forms of cooperation, problems and threats posed to the region, such as terrorism, international crime and illicit arms transfers, as well as illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which jeopardize the friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society;

11. *Encourages* the continued widespread support among the Mediterranean countries for the convening of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, as well as the ongoing consultations to create the appropriate conditions for its convening;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/51. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolution 50/76 of 12 December 1995 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979,[106]

Emphasizing the need to foster consensual approaches, in particular given the prevailing international climate, which is conducive to the pursuit of such endeavours,

Noting the initiatives taken by countries in the region to promote cooperation, in particular economic cooperation, in the Indian Ocean area and the possible contribution of such initiatives to overall objectives of a zone of peace,

Convinced that the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean is important and would assist the progress of mutually beneficial dialogue to develop conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee,[107] including the statement by its Chairman on 8 July 1996, as contained in paragraph 8 of the report,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;[107]

2. *Reiterates its conviction* that the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would greatly facilitate the development of a mutually beneficial dialogue to advance peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region;

3. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to examine its future work, taking into account, *inter alia*, the statement made by its Chairman on 8 July 1996, and to make recommendations

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[106] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45* and corrigendum (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

[107] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 29* (A/51/29).

for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

4. *Also requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to hold a session during 1997, of a duration of no more than three working days;

5. *Further requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/52. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 1911 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963 it expressed the hope that the States of Latin America would take appropriate measures to conclude a treaty that would prohibit nuclear weapons in Latin America,

Recalling also that in the same resolution it voiced its confidence that, once such a treaty was concluded, all States, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, would lend it their full cooperation for the effective realization of its peaceful aims,

Considering that in its resolution 2028 (XX) of 19 November 1965 it established the principle of an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations between nuclear-weapon States and those which do not possess such weapons,

Recalling that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)[108] was opened for signature at Mexico City on 14 February 1967,

Taking note of the thirtieth anniversary on 14 February 1997 of the opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco,

Recalling that in its preamble the Treaty of Tlatelolco states that military denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage,

Recalling also that in its resolution 2286 (XXII) of 5 December 1967 it welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty of Tlatelolco as an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security,

Recalling further that in 1990, 1991 and 1992 the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean approved and opened for signature a set of amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco,[109] with the aim of enabling the full entry into force of that instrument,

Recalling resolution C/E/RES.27 of the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean,[110] in which the Council calls for the promotion of cooperation and consultations with other nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Noting with satisfaction that, with the full adherence on 6 May 1996 of Guyana, the Treaty of Tlatelolco is in force for thirty-one sovereign States of the region,

Also noting with satisfaction that the amended Treaty of Tlatelolco is fully in force for Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay,

1. *Welcomes* the concrete steps taken by some countries of the region during the past year for the consolidation of the regime of military denuclearization established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco);[108]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the full adherence of Guyana to the Treaty of Tlatelolco;

3. *Urges* the countries of the region that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolutions 267 (E-V) of 3 July 1990, 268 (XII) of 10 May 1991 and 290 (E-VII) of 26 August 1992;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/53. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/78 of 12 December 1995 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

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[108] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

[109] A/47/467, annex.

[110] See CD/1392.

Noting and welcoming with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the signing ceremony of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[111] that was held at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,[112] which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Noting with satisfaction the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,[113] in which it was stated that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Bearing in mind resolution CM/Res.1660 (LXIV) on expediting the process of ratification of the Treaty of Pelindaba, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996,[114]

1. *Calls upon* African States to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty[111] as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the international community and in particular to the nuclear-weapon States which have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon them to ratify the Protocols as soon as possible;

3. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, *de jure* or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[115] which have not yet concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty to do so, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (*b*) and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force;

5. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Secretary-General for the diligence with which he has rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in accordance with resolution 50/78;

6. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to extend assistance, within existing resources, to the signatories in 1997 in order to achieve the aims of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/54. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and thirty-nine States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[116] including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[117] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Recalling its resolution 46/35 A, adopted without a vote on 6 December 1991, in which it welcomed, *inter alia*, the establishment, proceeding from the recommendations of the

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[111] See A/50/426.

[112] A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1996*, document S/1996/276.

[113] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*, document S/PRST/1996/17.

[114] A/51/524, annex I.

[115] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[116] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

[117] BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

Third Review Conference,[118] of an ad hoc group of governmental experts open to all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,

Recalling also its resolution 48/65, adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, in which it commended the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint,[119] agreed to by consensus at the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Group at Geneva on 24 September 1993,

Recalling further its resolution 49/86, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,[120] adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to all States parties, whose objective should be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts, the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 19 to 30 September 1994, and the final documents of the Review Conferences,

1. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[117]

2. *Also welcomes* the progress made by the Ad Hoc Group in pursuing the mandate established by the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on 30 September 1994, and urges the Ad Hoc Group, in order to fulfil its mandate, to intensify its work with a view to completing it as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference and to submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States parties to be considered at a special conference;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, as well as the decisions contained in the final report of the Special Conference, including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group;

4. *Welcomes* the convening, at the request of the States parties, of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Geneva from 25 November to 6 December 1996;

5. *Calls upon* all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and also calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/55. The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the observance of the Charter and the principles of international law is essential for the strengthening of international peace and security,

Considering the emergence of new opportunities for building a peaceful world,

Mindful of the obligations of all States under the Charter, *inter alia*, to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, to develop friendly relations among nations and to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Deeply concerned that situations that may lead to a breach of international peace are continuing in spite of the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to them and to avert such conflicts in the future,

Stressing the importance of the activities of the international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the aim of preventing the violent disintegration of States, of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for development,

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[118] See BWC/CONF.III/23.

[119] BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9 and Corr.1.

[120] BWC/SPCONF/1.

Considering that the violent disintegration of States may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security,

Affirming the need for United Nations measures to help prevent the violent disintegration of States, thereby enhancing the maintenance of international peace and security and the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

1. *Calls upon* all States, the relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to continue to undertake measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as appropriate to help to prevent the violent disintegration of States;

2. *Stresses* the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States to the solution of problems among States, to prevent the violent disintegration of States and to promote international cooperation in accordance with the Charter;

3. *Affirms* the need for strict compliance with the principle of the inviolability of international borders among States;

4. *Affirms also* the need for strict compliance with the principle of the territorial integrity of any State;

5. *Requests* all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/56. Question of Antarctica

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/80 of 15 December 1994, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit information provided by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties on their consultative meetings and on their activities, and on developments in relation to Antarctica,

Taking into account the debates on the question of Antarctica held since its thirty-eighth session,

Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community, including for international peace and security, the global and regional environment, its effects on global and regional climate conditions, and scientific research,

Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Recognizing that the Antarctic Treaty,[121] which provides, *inter alia*, for the demilitarization of the continent, the prohibition of nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear wastes, the freedom of scientific research and the free exchange of scientific information, is in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Recognizing also the designation, in the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty,[122] of Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science and the provisions contained in the Protocol regarding the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems, including for environmental assessment, in the planning and conduct of all activities in Antarctica,

Welcoming the continuing cooperation among countries undertaking scientific research activities in Antarctica, which may help to minimize human impacts on the Antarctic environment,

Welcoming also the increasing awareness of an interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Reaffirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica[123] and the role accorded by the Secretary-General to the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing his report, and also of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, which took place at Seoul from 8 to 19 May 1995 and at Utrecht, the Netherlands, from 29 April to 10 May 1996, respectively;

2. *Recalls* the statement under chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[124] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, that States carrying out research activities in Antarctica should, as provided for in article III of the Antarctic Treaty, continue:

(*a*) To ensure that data and information resulting from such research are freely available to the international community;

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[121] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

[122] *International Legal Materials*, vol. XXX, No. 6, p. 1461.

[123] A/51/390.

[124] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution I, annex II, chap. 17, para. 17.105.

(*b*) To enhance the access of the international scientific community and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to such data and information, including the encouragement of periodic seminars and symposia;

3. *Welcomes* the invitations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to attend Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings in order to assist such meetings in their substantive work, and urges the parties to continue to extend such invitations for future consultative meetings;

4. *Welcomes also* the practice whereby the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties regularly provide the Secretary-General with information on their consultative meetings and on their activities in Antarctica, and encourages the Parties to continue to provide the Secretary-General and other interested States with information on developments in relation to Antarctica, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report which shall consist of that information to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (FOURTH COMMITTEE)

CONTENTS

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/121	Effects of atomic radiation	114
51/122	Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries	114
51/123	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space	115
51/124	Assistance to Palestine refugees	119
51/125	Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	120
51/126	Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities	120
51/127	Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees	121
51/128	Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	121
51/129	Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues	123
51/130	University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees	123
51/131	Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories	124
51/132	Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories	125
51/133	Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan	125
51/134	Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem	126
51/135	The occupied Syrian Golan	127
51/136	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects	128
51/137	Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel	128
51/138	Questions relating to information	
	A. Information in the service of humanity	129
	B. United Nations public information policies and activities	130
51/139	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	132

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/140	Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	133
51/141	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	134
51/142	Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	136
51/143	Question of Western Sahara	136
51/144	Question of New Caledonia	137
51/145	Question of Tokelau	138

51/121. Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 50/26 of 6 December 1995, in which, *inter alia*, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation,[1]

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Noting the views expressed by Member States at its fifty-first session with regard to the work of the Scientific Committee,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past forty-one years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the completion in 1996 of a further scientific annex by the Scientific Committee informing the scientific and world communities of its latest evaluations of the sources and effects of ionizing radiation on man and his environment, and calls upon the Scientific Committee to ensure the widest possible dissemination of this scientific annex to Member States;

3. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;

4. *Endorses* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

8. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/122. Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-ninth session[2] and the text of the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, as approved by the Committee and annexed to its report,[3]

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling notably the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[4]

Recalling also its relevant resolutions relating to activities in outer space,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[5] and of other international conferences relevant in this field,

Recognizing the growing scope and significance of international cooperation among States and between States and international organizations in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 46* (A/51/46).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 20* (A/51/20).

[3] Ibid., annex IV.

[4] Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

[5] See *Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982* and corrigenda (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

Considering experiences gained in international cooperative ventures,

Convinced of the necessity and the significance of further strengthening international cooperation in order to reach broad and efficient collaboration in this field for the mutual benefit and in the interest of all parties involved,

Desirous of facilitating the application of the principle that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind,

Adopts the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

ANNEX

Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries

1. International cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes (hereinafter "international cooperation") shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.[4] It shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all States, irrespective of their degree of economic, social or scientific and technological development, and shall be the province of all mankind. Particular account should be taken of the needs of developing countries.

2. States are free to determine all aspects of their participation in international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis. Contractual terms in such cooperative ventures should be fair and reasonable and they should be in full compliance with the legitimate rights and interests of the parties concerned, as, for example, with intellectual property rights.

3. All States, particularly those with relevant space capabilities and with programmes for the exploration and use of outer space, should contribute to promoting and fostering international cooperation on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis. In this context, particular attention should be given to the benefit and the interests of developing countries and countries with incipient space programmes stemming from such international cooperation conducted with countries with more advanced space capabilities.

4. International cooperation should be conducted in the modes that are considered most effective and appropriate by the countries concerned, including, *inter alia*, governmental and non-governmental; commercial and non-commercial; global, multilateral, regional or bilateral; and international cooperation among countries in all levels of development.

5. International cooperation, while taking into particular account the needs of developing countries, should aim, *inter alia*, at the following goals, considering their need for technical assistance and rational and efficient allocation of financial and technical resources:

(*a*) Promoting the development of space science and technology and of its applications;

(*b*) Fostering the development of relevant and appropriate space capabilities in interested States;

(*c*) Facilitating the exchange of expertise and technology among States on a mutually acceptable basis.

6. National and international agencies, research institutions, organizations for development aid, and developed and developing countries alike should consider the appropriate use of space applications and the potential of international cooperation for reaching their development goals.

7. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be strengthened in its role, among others, as a forum for the exchange of information on national and international activities in the field of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space.

8. All States should be encouraged to contribute to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and to other initiatives in the field of international cooperation in accordance with their space capabilities and their participation in the exploration and use of outer space.

51/123. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, *Stressing* the importance of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space,

Concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and application as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contribute to international cooperation, and the importance of further international cooperation in this field,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[6] on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[7]

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-ninth session,[8]

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-ninth session;[8]

2. *Invites* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space[9] to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. *Notes* that, at its thirty-fifth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its working groups, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/27;[10]

4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-sixth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

(*a*) Continue its consideration of the question of review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;[11]

(*b*) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;

5. *Also endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-sixth session, should suspend consideration in its working group of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, without prejudice to the possibility of reconvening its working group on that item if in the opinion of the Legal Subcommittee sufficient progress was made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its session in 1997 to warrant the reconvening of the working group;

6. *Notes* that deliberations on the question of the geostationary orbit have been undertaken by the Legal Subcommittee as reflected in its report,[10] on the basis of recent proposals which might provide a new and enhanced basis for future work;

7. *Endorses* the recommendations and agreements concerning the organization of work in the Legal Subcommittee;

8. *Notes* that the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-fifth session, conducted open-ended informal consultations with all members of the Subcommittee on the working methods of the Subcommittee, including the consideration of possible additional items for inclusion in its agenda, as outlined in the report of the Committee,[12] and that the implementation of several recommendations made by the Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session resulted in a general recognition of the improvements in the working methods of the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session;

9. *Welcomes* the fact that, pursuant to its request in paragraph 12 of its resolution 50/27, the Legal Subcommittee reviewed its requirement for summary records and that, beginning with its thirty-sixth session, it would be provided with unedited verbatim transcripts in lieu of summary records;

10. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with paragraph 11 of its resolution 50/27, the Committee was provided, at its thirty-ninth session, with unedited verbatim transcripts of that session in lieu of verbatim records and that

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[6] A/51/276.

[7] See *Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982* and corrigenda (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/51/20).

[9] Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI), annex); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 2345 (XXII), annex); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex); Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 34/68, annex).

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/51/20), sect. II.C.

[11] See resolution 47/68.

[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/51/20), sect. II.C.4.

the Committee would evaluate the use of unedited verbatim transcripts at its fortieth session to inform the General Assembly at its fifty-second session of the experience of the Committee with the transcripts;

11. *Notes* that, in accordance with paragraph 9 of its resolution 50/27, the Committee reconvened, at its thirty-ninth session, the Working Group of the Whole to examine the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

12. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee as contained in its report on its thirty-ninth session with regard to its working methods;[13]

13. *Notes* that, in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its thirty-ninth session, the Chairman of the Committee undertook and will continue to hold, as necessary, inter-sessional informal consultations among the members of the Committee with a view to reaching consensus decisions before the fortieth session of the Committee on the modalities of establishing a new composition of bureaux, keeping in view the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation, and that all proposals made by delegations and groups of delegations, including the need for agenda restructuring and an examination of session duration, were taken into account in the framework of those informal consultations;

14. *Agrees* that if consensus agreement is reached among the members of the Committee on measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, including the composition and election of the bureaux, duration of sessions of those bodies and inclusion of additional items in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, those measures should be implemented during the 1997 sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as the transitional arrangements for the year 1997;

15. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-third session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/27;[14]

16. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued to consider on a priority basis the agenda item on space debris and that the work of the Subcommittee at its thirty-third session concentrated on the topic of measurements of space debris, understanding of data and effects of this environment on space systems, based on the multi-year work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-second session;[15]

17. *Agrees* that the multi-year work plan for the consideration of the item on space debris should continue to be implemented with flexibility;

18. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-fourth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

(*a*) Consider the following items on a priority basis:

(i) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system;

(ii) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;[7]

(iii) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries;

(iv) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(v) Space debris;

(*b*) Consider the following items:

(i) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;

(ii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;

(iii) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;

(iv) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth's environment, in particular progress in the international geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme;

(v) Matters relating to planetary exploration;

(vi) Matters relating to astronomy;

(vii) The theme fixed for special attention at the thirty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space systems for direct broadcasting and global information systems for space research"; the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the Subcommittee's session, to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme;

19. *Considers*, in the context of paragraph 18 (*a*) (ii) above, that it is particularly urgent to implement the following recommendations:

(*a*) All countries should have the opportunity to use the techniques resulting from medical studies in space;

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[13] Ibid., sect. II.E.3.

[14] Ibid., sect. II.B.

[15] A/AC.105/605, para. 83.

(*b*) Databases at the national and regional levels should be strengthened and expanded and an international space information service should be established to function as a centre of coordination;

(*c*) The United Nations should support the creation of adequate training centres at the regional level, linked, whenever possible, to institutions implementing space programmes; necessary funding for the development of such centres should be made available through financial institutions;

(*d*) The United Nations should organize a fellowship programme through which selected graduates or postgraduates from developing countries should get in-depth, long-term exposure to space technology or applications; it is also desirable to encourage the availability of opportunities for such exposure on other bilateral or multilateral bases outside the United Nations system;

20. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in the report of the Working Group of the Whole;[16]

21. *Also endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should reconvene, at its thirty-fourth session, the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to continue its work;

22. *Invites* Member States to report to the Secretary-General on a regular basis with regard to national and international research concerning the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board;

23. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1997, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications;[17]

24. *Emphasizes* the urgency and importance of implementing fully the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in particular those relating to the promotion of the establishment and strengthening of regional mechanisms of cooperation through the United Nations system;

25. *Invites* all Governments within the organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations working in the field of outer space or on space-related matters to take effective action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, and also invites the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

26. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of resolution 50/27 and in the context of paragraph 19 (*c*) above, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific began its first education programme in April 1996 and that significant progress has also been achieved in establishing regional centres for space science and technology education in the other regions covered by the regional commissions;

27. *Notes* that, pursuant to its recommendation in paragraph 33 of resolution 50/27, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-third session, continued to discuss the possibility of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space before the turn of the century, and that the Committee continued these discussions at its thirty-ninth session with a view to making a final recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

28. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that a special session of the Committee (UNISPACE III), open to all States Members of the United Nations, should be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna, preferably in 1999, unless progress towards agreeing on an agenda in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session makes it more appropriate to consider the year 2000;[18]

29. *Requests* the Committee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to act as the Preparatory Committee and the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to act as the executive secretariat; and also requests the Preparatory Committee and the Advisory Committee to carry out the tasks entrusted to them in paragraphs 178 to 185 of the report of the Committee[8] and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the progress made in the preparatory work for UNISPACE III;

30. *Recognizes* the contribution of the Third Space Conference of the Americas, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 1996, towards promoting regional cooperation in space activities, as well as the meetings mentioned in paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General[6] on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[7] and calls upon the regional commissions to support those initiatives;

31. *Recommends* that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

32. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris,

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[16] A/AC.105/637 and Corr.1, annex II.

[17] See A/AC.105/625, sect. I.

[18] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/51/20), sect. II.E.

and also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

33. *Urges* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes;

34. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, particularly in the developing countries;

35. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, taking into account the views expressed at its thirty-ninth session and at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-second session;

36. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to consider at its fortieth session its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

37. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee to grant permanent observer status to the Planetary Society;

38. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

39. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/124. Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/28 A of 6 December 1995 and all its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996,[19]

Welcoming the signature in Washington on 13 September 1993 by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the people of Palestine, of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements[20] and the subsequent implementation agreements, and also the signature of the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in Washington on 28 September 1995,

Encouraging the Multilateral Working Group on Refugees of the Middle East peace process to continue its important work,

Welcoming the completion of the transfer of the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to its area of operations,

1. *Notes with regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of its resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of concern;

2. *Expresses its thanks* to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and to private organizations for their valuable work in assisting refugees;

3. *Notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III),[21] and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 1997;

4. *Notes* the significant success of the Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency since the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements,[20] and stresses the importance that contributions to this Programme are not at the expense of the General Fund;

5. *Welcomes* strengthened cooperation between the Agency and the World Bank and other specialized agencies, and calls upon the Agency to make a decisive contribution towards giving a fresh impetus to the economic and social stability of the occupied territories;

6. *Urges* all Member States to extend and expedite aid and assistance with a view to the economic and social development of the Palestinian people and the occupied territories;

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[19] Ibid., *Supplement No. 13* (A/51/13).

[20] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[21] See A/51/439, annex.

7. *Reiterates its concern* regarding the continuing seriousness of the financial position of the Agency, as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General;

8. *Commends* the efforts of the Commissioner-General to move towards budgetary transparency and internal efficiency, and hopes that such moves will continue;

9. *Notes with profound concern* that the structural deficit problem confronting the Agency portends an almost certain decline in the living conditions of the Palestine refugees and that it, therefore, has possible consequences for the peace process;

10. *Calls upon* all Governments, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, including the costs of moving the headquarters to Gaza, urges non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly, and encourages contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/125. Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 50/28 B of 6 December 1995 and the previous resolutions on this question,

Recalling also its decision 36/462 of 16 March 1982, by which it took note of the special report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[22]

Having considered the report of the Working Group,[23]

Taking into account the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996,[24]

Deeply concerned about the critical financial situation of the Agency, which has affected and affects the continuation of the provision of the necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,

Emphasizing the continuing need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at the current minimum level, the activities of the Agency, as well as to enable the Agency to carry out essential construction,

1. *Commends* the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency;

2. *Takes note with approval* of the report of the Working Group;[23]

3. *Requests* the Working Group to continue its efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, for the financing of the Agency for a further period of one year;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/126. Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 and 259 (1968) of 27 September 1968,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolution 50/28 C of 6 December 1995,[25]

Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996,[26]

Concerned about the continuing human suffering resulting from the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities,

Taking note of the relevant provisions of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed in Washington on 13 September 1993 by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[27] with regard to the modalities for the admission of persons displaced in 1967, and concerned that the process agreed upon has not yet been effected,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of all persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

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[22] A/36/866 and Corr.1; see also A/37/591.

[23] A/51/509.

[24] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/51/13).

[25] A/51/369.

[26] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/51/13).

[27] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

2. *Expresses the hope* for an accelerated return of displaced persons through the mechanism agreed upon by the parties in article XII of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements;[27]

3. *Endorses*, in the meanwhile, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis, and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who are currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities;

4. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously to the Agency and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned for the above purposes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly before its fifty-second session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/127. Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 212 (III) of 19 November 1948 on assistance to Palestine refugees,

Recalling also its resolutions 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, 36/146 H of 16 December 1981, 37/120 D of 16 December 1982, 38/83 D of 15 December 1983, 39/99 D of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D of 16 December 1985, 41/69 D of 3 December 1986, 42/69 D of 2 December 1987, 43/57 D of 6 December 1988, 44/47 D of 8 December 1989, 45/73 D of 11 December 1990, 46/46 D of 9 December 1991, 47/69 D of 14 December 1992, 48/40 D of 10 December 1993, 49/35 D of 9 December 1994 and 50/28 D of 6 December 1995,

Cognizant of the fact that the Palestine refugees have, for the last four decades, lost their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[28]

Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996,[29]

1. *Urges* all States to respond to the appeal in its resolution 32/90 F of 13 December 1977 and reiterated in subsequent relevant resolutions in a manner commensurate with the needs of Palestine refugees for higher education, including vocational training;

2. *Strongly appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to augment the special allocations for grants and scholarships to Palestine refugees, in addition to their contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations that responded favourably to its resolutions 41/69 D, 42/69 D, 43/57 D, 44/47 D, 45/73 D, 46/46 D, 47/69 D, 48/40 D, 49/35 D and 50/28 D;

4. *Invites* the relevant specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue, within their respective spheres of competence, to extend assistance for higher education to Palestine refugee students;

5. *Appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and the United Nations University to contribute generously to the Palestinian universities in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including, in due course, the proposed University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees;

6. *Appeals* to all States, specialized agencies and other international bodies to contribute towards the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees;

7. *Requests* the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships and to award them to qualified Palestine refugee candidates;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/128. Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 212 (III) of 19 November 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and all subsequent related resolutions,

Recalling also the relevant Security Council resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996,[30]

Taking note of the letter dated 22 September 1996 from the Chairman of the Advisory Commission of the United

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[28] A/51/370.

[29] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/51/13).

[30] Ibid.

Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East addressed to the Commissioner-General, contained in the report of the Commissioner-General,[31]

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of its resolutions 48/40 E,[32] 48/40 H[33] and 48/40 J[34] of 10 December 1993 and 49/35 C of 9 December 1994,[35]

Recalling Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[36]

Affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[37] to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem,

Aware of the fact that Palestine refugees have, for over four decades, lost their homes, lands and means of livelihood,

Also aware of the continuing needs of Palestine refugees throughout the occupied Palestinian territory and in the other fields of operation, namely, in Lebanon, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic,

Further aware of the valuable work done by the refugee affairs officers of the Agency in providing protection to the Palestinian people, in particular Palestine refugees,

Deeply concerned about the critical financial situation of the Agency and its effect on the continuity of provision of necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,

Aware of the work of the new Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency,

Welcoming the signing in Washington on 13 September 1993 of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[38] and the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in Washington on 28 September 1995,

Taking note of the agreement reached on 24 June 1994, embodied in an exchange of letters between the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization,[39]

Aware of the establishment of a working relationship between the Advisory Commission of the Agency and the Palestine Liberation Organization in accordance with General Assembly decision 48/417 of 10 December 1993,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as well as to all the staff of the Agency, for their tireless efforts and valuable work;

2. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and requests it to continue its efforts and to keep the General Assembly informed of its activities, including the full implementation of decision 48/417;

3. *Welcomes* the completion of the transfer of the headquarters of the Agency to Gaza and the signing of the Headquarters Agreement between the Agency and the Palestinian Authority;

4. *Acknowledges* the support of the host Government and the Palestine Liberation Organization for the Agency in the discharge of its duties;

5. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to accept the *de jure* applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[37] and to abide scrupulously by its provisions;

6. *Also calls upon* Israel to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations[36] with regard to the safety of the personnel of the Agency and the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the Agency in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem;

7. *Calls once again upon* the Government of Israel to compensate the Agency for damages to its property and facilities resulting from actions by the Israeli side;

8. *Requests* the Commissioner-General to proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the occupied Palestinian territory;

9. *Notes* that the new context created by the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization[38] and subsequent implementation agreements has had major consequences for the activities of the Agency, which is henceforth called upon, in close cooperation with the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories, the specialized agencies and the World Bank, to continue to contribute towards the development of economic and social stability in the occupied territory;

10. *Notes also* that the functioning of the Agency remains essential in all fields of operation;

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[31] Ibid., p. vii.

[32] A/49/440.

[33] A/49/442.

[34] A/49/443.

[35] A/50/451.

[36] Resolution 22 A (I).

[37] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[38] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[39] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/49/13), annex I.

11. *Notes further* the significant success of the Peace Implementation Programme of the Agency;

12. *Urges* all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to increase their contributions to the Agency so as to ease current financial constraints and to support the Agency in maintaining the provision of the most basic and effective assistance to the Palestine refugees.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/129. Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 36/146 C of 16 December 1981 and all its subsequent resolutions on the question,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General in pursuance of resolution 50/28 F of 6 December 1995,[40]

Taking note also of the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine for the period from 1 September 1995 to 31 August 1996,[41]

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[42] and the principles of international law uphold the principle that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her property,

Recalling in particular its resolution 394 (V) of 14 December 1950, in which it directed the Conciliation Commission, in consultation with the parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine Arab refugees,

Taking note of the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property, as announced by the Conciliation Commission in its twenty-second progress report,[43] and of the fact that the Land Office had a schedule of Arab owners and file of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

Recalling that in the framework of the Middle East peace process the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel agreed, in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993,[44] to commence negotiations on permanent status issues, including the important issue of the refugees, and calling for the commencement of those negotiations,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Palestine Arab refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived therefrom, in conformity with the principles of justice and equity;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel and to preserve and modernize the existing records;

3. *Calls once more upon* Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Urges* the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues in the framework of the final status negotiations of the Middle East peace process;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/130. University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/146 G of 16 December 1981, 37/120 C of 16 December 1982, 38/83 K of 15 December 1983, 39/99 K of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D and K of 16 December 1985, 41/69 K of 3 December 1986, 42/69 K of 2 December 1987, 43/57 J of 6 December 1988, 44/47 J of 8 December 1989, 45/73 J of 11 December 1990, 46/46 J of 9 December 1991, 47/69 J of 14 December 1992, 48/40 I of 10 December 1993, 49/35 G of 9 December 1994 and 50/28 G of 6 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[45]

Having also considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996,[46]

1. *Emphasizes* the need for strengthening the educational system in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 5 June 1967, including Jerusalem, and specifically the need for the establishment of the proposed university;

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[40] A/51/371.

[41] A/51/439.

[42] Resolution 217 A (III).

[43] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes*, Annex No. 11, document A/5700.

[44] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

[45] A/51/476.

[46] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 13* (A/51/13).

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary measures for establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, giving due consideration to the recommendations consistent with the provisions of that resolution;

3. *Calls once more upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate in the implementation of the present resolution and to remove the hindrances that it has put in the way of establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds";

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/131. Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the principles of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[47] as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[48] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[49]

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution 2443 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, and relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Aware of the lasting impact of the uprising (*intifadah*) of the Palestinian people,

Convinced that occupation itself represents a primary violation of human rights,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[50] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[51]

Noting the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington on 13 September 1993,[52] as well as the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in Washington on 28 September 1995,

Expressing the hope that, with the progress of the peace process, the Israeli occupation will be brought to an end and therefore violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people will cease,

1. *Commends* the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly and for its impartiality;

2. *Demands* that Israel cooperate with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate;

3. *Deplores* those policies and practices of Israel which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the reports of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;

4. *Expresses concern* over the recent deterioration of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, as a result of Israeli practices and measures and the impasse facing the Middle East peace process;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, especially Israeli lack of compliance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[47] and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross according to its regulations in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories are safeguarded and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

6. *Also requests* the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem;

7. *Further requests* the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment of prisoners in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

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[47] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[48] Resolution 217 A (III).

[49] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[50] See A/51/99 and Add.1-3.

[51] A/51/514 and A/51/516-518.

[52] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

(*a*) To provide all necessary facilities to the Special Committee, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(*b*) To continue to make available such additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(*c*) To circulate regularly to Member States the periodic reports mentioned in paragraph 6 above;

(*d*) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

(*e*) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories".

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/132. Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[53] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[54]

Considering that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments and rules of international law is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Stressing that Israel, the occupying Power, should comply strictly with its obligations under international law,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[55] is applicable to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Demands* that Israel accept the *de jure* applicability of the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions,[56] to exert all efforts in order to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/133. Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[57] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Welcoming the Middle East peace process started at Madrid and the agreements reached between the parties, in particular the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[58] and the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of 28 September 1995,

Expressing grave concern over the decision of the Government of Israel to resume settlement activities in violation of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the agreements reached between the parties,

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[53] See A/51/99 and Add.1-3.

[54] A/51/514 and A/51/516-518.

[55] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[56] Ibid., Nos. 970-973.

[57] Ibid., No. 973.

[58] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

Gravely concerned in particular about the dangerous situation resulting from actions taken by the illegal armed Israeli settlers in the occupied territory, as illustrated by the massacre of Palestinian worshippers by an illegal Israeli settler in Al-Khalil on 25 February 1994,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[59]

1. *Reaffirms* that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;

2. *Calls upon* Israel to accept the *de jure* applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[57] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49;

3. *Demands* complete cessation of all illegal Israeli settlement activities;

4. *Stresses* the need for full implementation of Security Council resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994, in which, among other things, the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including, *inter alia*, confiscation of arms, with the aim of preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/134. Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the most recent of which are resolutions 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994 and 1073 (1996) of 28 September 1996,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[60] and the reports of the Secretary-General,[61]

Aware of the responsibility of the international community to promote human rights and ensure respect for international law,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[62] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington on 13 September 1993,[63] as well as the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip signed in Washington on 28 September 1995,

Noting the withdrawal of the Israeli army, which took place in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area in accordance with the agreements reached between the parties, and the initiation of the Palestinian Authority in those areas,

Noting also the redeployment of the Israeli army from six cities in the West Bank,

Concerned about the continuing violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, especially the use of collective punishment, closure of areas, annexation and establishment of settlements and the continuing actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem,

Expressing its deep concern in particular over the closure by the Israeli authorities of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, which prevents the freedom of movement of persons and goods and is the cause of great economic and social hardship, in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and the agreements reached between the two sides,

Convinced of the positive impact of a temporary international or foreign presence in the occupied Palestinian territory for the safety and protection of the Palestinian people,

Expressing its appreciation to the countries that participated in the Temporary International Presence in Hebron for their positive contribution,

Convinced of the need for the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 904 (1994) and 1073 (1996),

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[59] A/51/517.

[60] See A/51/99 and Add.1-3.

[61] A/51/514 and A/51/516-518.

[62] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[63] A/48/486-S/26560, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560.

1. *Determines* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[62] and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity and that such measures should cease immediately;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people;

3. *Calls* for an immediate end of the closure and the assurance of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory and with the outside world in conformity with international law and the agreements reached;

4. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to accelerate the release of all remaining Palestinians arbitrarily detained or imprisoned, in line with agreements reached;

5. *Calls* for complete respect by Israel, the occupying Power, of all fundamental freedoms of the Palestinian people, pending the extension of the self-government arrangements to the rest of the occupied territory;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/135. The occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,[64]

Deeply concerned that the Syrian Golan occupied since 1967 has been under continued Israeli military occupation,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also its previous relevant resolutions, the last of which was resolution 50/29 D of 6 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 17 October 1996,[65]

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions in which, *inter alia*, it called upon Israel to put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of the decision of 14 December 1981 taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[66] to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

Welcoming the convening at Madrid of the Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 aimed at the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, and stressing the need for rapid progress in all bilateral negotiations,

1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, *inter alia*, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decision;

2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;

3. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[66] and have no legal effect;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to desist from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

5. *Deplores* the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

6. *Calls once again upon* Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

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[64] See A/51/99/Add.2 and 3.

[65] A/51/518.

[66] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

51/136. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling in particular its resolution 50/30 of 6 December 1995,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization,[67]

Welcoming the statement of 28 March 1996 by the President of the Security Council on the arrangements for improved consultation and exchange of information with troop-contributing countries,[68]

Affirming that the efforts of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through its peacekeeping operations, are indispensable,

Convinced of the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the field of peacekeeping and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peacekeeping missions,

Considering the contribution that all States Members of the Organization make to peacekeeping,

Taking note of the widespread interest in contributing to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations expressed by many Member States, including troop-contributing countries,

Bearing in mind the continuous necessity of preserving the efficiency and strengthening the effectiveness of the work of the Special Committee,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;[69]

2. *Endorses* the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee contained in paragraphs 29 to 85 of its report;

3. *Urges* Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee;

4. *Decides* to expand the membership of the Special Committee in accordance with the provisions of its report; those Member States which are past or present personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations and those which were observers at the 1996 session of the Special Committee shall, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Committee, become members at its 1997 session;

5. *Decides also* that those Member States which become personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or participate in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers shall, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Committee, become members at the following session of the Committee;

6. *Decides further* that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, and shall review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/137. Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/59 of 9 December 1994, by which it adopted the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,

Gravely concerned by the continuing attacks and acts of violence against United Nations and associated personnel that have caused death or serious injury,

Conscious of the need effectively to promote and protect the safety and security of the personnel who act on behalf of the United Nations, attacks against whom are unjustifiable and unacceptable,

Recognizing that United Nations and associated personnel, while carrying out their activities in support of the fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation, are acting in the common interests of the international community,

Considering that the entry into force of the Convention would strengthen arrangements for the protection of personnel who act on behalf of the United Nations,

Noting, however, that only a small number of States have become parties to the Convention,

Recalling the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations,[70] in which, in particular, the

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[67] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/51/1).

[68] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*, document S/PRST/1996/13.

[69] A/51/130 and Corr.1.

[70] Ibid.

Committee called upon Member States to ratify the Convention so as to ensure its early entry into force,

1. *Welcomes* all signatures, ratifications, acceptances and approvals of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and accessions thereto;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention, to bring about its entry into force at the earliest possible date;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary steps to facilitate the dissemination of information relating to the Convention and to promote its wider appreciation;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the status of the Convention and on the steps taken pursuant to paragraph 3 above.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/138. Questions relating to information

A

Information in the service of humanity

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information,[71]

Also taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information,[72]

Urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process":

(*a*) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(*b*) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(*c*) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(*d*) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communication capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communication technology in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(*e*) To aim, in addition to bilateral cooperation, at providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

- (i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communication systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;
- (ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;
- (iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;
- (iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by the developing countries to advanced communication technology available on the open market;

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[71] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/51/21).

[72] A/51/406.

(*f*) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication[73] of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

B

United Nations public information policies and activities

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its primary role in elaborating, coordinating and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information,

Also reaffirming that the Secretary-General should ensure that the activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, as the focal point for the public information tasks of the United Nations, are strengthened and improved, keeping in view the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the priority areas defined by the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information,

Taking note of all the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Committee at its eighteenth session,

Encouraging the Secretary-General to develop a concrete plan to continue to enhance the public image of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to membership in the Committee on Information;

2. *Recalls* its decision to consolidate the role of the Committee as its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations relating to the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in respect of the public information policies and activities of the United Nations, to implement fully the recommendations contained in paragraph 2 of its resolution 48/44 B of 10 December 1993;

4. *Takes note* of the reductions in the resources allocated to the Department of Public Information, expresses its concern about the proposals of the Secretary-General on further reductions in the Department's budget which might negatively affect the activities mandated by the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to support the Department of Public Information, in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of Assembly resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995;

5. *Also takes note* of the efforts of the Secretary-General to put into practice the need for an effective public information capacity of the Department of Public Information for the formation and day-to-day functioning of the information components of peacekeeping and other field operations of the United Nations, and requests the Secretariat to continue to ensure the involvement of the Department at the planning stage of such future operations through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with the other substantive departments of the Secretariat;

6. *Requests* the management of the Department of Public Information to review the Department's publications and proposals for publications to ensure that all publications fulfil an identifiable need, that they do not duplicate other publications inside or outside the United Nations system and that they are produced in a cost-effective manner, and to report thereon to the Committee at its nineteenth session;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the review of major publications of the Department of Public Information,[74] and urges all efforts to ensure timely production and dissemination of its major publications, in particular the *UN Chronicle*, the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, the *World Media Handbook* and *Africa Recovery*, maintaining consistent editorial independence and accuracy, taking the necessary measures to ensure that they contain adequate, objective and equitable information about issues before the Organization and reflecting divergent opinions wherever they occur;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a review of existing publications produced and disseminated by the Department of Public Information in the sphere of development and to renew his efforts to improve existing publications or explore the possibility of alternative publications, in such a manner as to respond to the development-related information needs of people, in accordance with the requirements that the publications fulfil an identifiable need, that they do not duplicate other publications inside or outside the United Nations system and that they are produced in a cost-effective manner;

9. *Reaffirms* the importance attached by Member States to the role of United Nations information centres in effectively and comprehensively disseminating information in all parts of the world, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and especially in those countries where there is a need for greater understanding about United Nations activities;

10. *Reaffirms also* that United Nations information centres meet the primary objectives outlined by the Committee in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;[75]

11. *Recalls* the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the trial of integrating United Nations information

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[73] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-first Session, Belgrade, 23 September to 28 October 1980*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. III.4, resolution 4/21.

[74] A/AC.198/1996/3.

[75] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/42/21), chap. III, sect. D, recommendation 36.

centres with field offices of the United Nations system in general,[76] and requests the Secretary-General to continue the integration exercise in a cost-effective manner and whenever feasible, on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the views of the host country and ensuring that the information functions and the autonomy of United Nations information centres are not adversely affected and to report thereon to the Committee;

12. *Welcomes* the action by some Member States with regard to financial and material support to United Nations information centres in their respective capitals, and invites the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information, to consult Member States, where appropriate, on the possibility of providing the centres with additional voluntary support on a national basis;

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the allocation of resources to United Nations information centres in 1995,[77] and calls upon him to continue to study ways and means to rationalize and effect equitable disbursement of available resources to all United Nations information centres;

14. *Also takes note* of the important impact on the functioning and the fulfilment of the objectives of some of the United Nations information centres of the development of new technologies such as the Internet and CD-ROM, and their effect on the dissemination of information, the increase in the number of United Nations depository libraries in some Member States and the increased importance of all concerned actors of the international community in their cooperation with the Organization;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General therefore to submit a report to the Committee, for its consideration at its nineteenth session, on United Nations information centres, in particular, on added value, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and avoidance of duplication, especially in the areas of new technologies, with a view to offering recommendations on the review, strengthening and rationalization of their activities;

16. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in relation to the opening of new United Nations information centres, and invites the Secretary-General to make such recommendations as he may judge necessary regarding the establishment and location of these centres;

17. *Recognizes* the continued enhanced cooperation between the Department of Public Information and the University for Peace in Costa Rica as a focal point for promoting United Nations activities and disseminating United Nations information materials;

18. *Takes note* of the requests of Bulgaria, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan and Slovakia for information centres or information components;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct an evaluation, within existing resources and without detriment to mandated programmes and activities, through the services of an independent consultant selected after an open and transparent selection process, of the functioning of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, covering, *inter alia*, its infrastructure, operations, staffing and budgetary situation, with a view to improving all its services and taking advantage of new, cost-effective automated and electronic library information and communication technologies and services and taking into account previous studies on the subject, and to submit a report thereon to the Committee at its nineteenth session;

20. *Expresses its full support* for the wide and prompt coverage of United Nations activities through a continuation of United Nations press releases in both working languages of the Secretariat, namely, English and French, and stresses the importance of the continued speedy issue and high quality of those press releases in both working languages;

21. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to explore ways and means to improve the access of United Nations radio to airwaves worldwide, bearing in mind that radio is one of the most cost-effective and far-reaching media available to the Department of Public Information and is an important instrument in United Nations activities, such as development and peacekeeping, in accordance with its resolution 48/44 B;

22. *Underlines* the continued importance for the Department of Public Information of using traditional and mass media channels in disseminating information on the United Nations, and encourages the Department to take full advantage of recent developments in information technologies, such as the Internet and CD-ROM, in order to improve in a cost-effective, comprehensive and timely manner the dissemination of information on the United Nations, taking into account the linguistic diversity of the Organization;

23. *Commends* the Department of Public Information for the important role it played in responding to the increased public interest resulting from the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations;

24. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue to ensure the greatest possible access to United Nations guided tours, as well as to ensure that displays in public areas are kept as informative, up to date and relevant as possible;

25. *Invites* Member States and relevant international organizations to submit to the Secretary-General by 15 March 1997 their observations and suggestions on ways and means of furthering the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report thereon to the Committee at its nineteenth session;

26. *Recommends*, in order to continue to facilitate contact between the Department of Public Information and the Committee between sessions, that the Bureau of the Committee, together with representatives of each regional group, the Group of 77 and China, in close contact with the members of the Committee, should continue to meet on a regular basis and consult at periodic intervals with representatives of the Department;

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[76] A/AC.198/1995/5.

[77] A/AC.198/1996/2.

27. *Takes note* of the contribution made by Member States, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, to information activities for the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, and recalls its resolutions concerning the consequences of the above-mentioned disaster, in particular, resolutions 50/31 B of 6 December 1995 and 50/134 of 20 December 1995, encouraging the regular exchange of information with the countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to enhancing world public awareness of the consequences of such disasters;

28. *Recognizes* the positive role of the regional seminars held at Windhoek, Santiago, Almaty and Sana'a for the promotion of independent and pluralistic media, takes note of the invitation of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-eighth session, in its resolution 4.6 of 15 November 1995,[78] to cooperate with the Director-General of the Organization in the preparation and organization of a similar regional seminar in 1997 in Central and Eastern Europe, depending on the availability of funding, also takes note of the offer of the Government of Bulgaria to host such a seminar, and invites the Department of Public Information to provide the requested assistance in jointly mobilizing the support of various other voluntary funding sources;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its nineteenth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution;

30. *Decides* that the nineteenth session of the Committee should last no more than ten working days, and requests the Bureau of the Committee to explore ways and means of making optimum use of the Committee's time;

31. *Requests* the Committee to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

32. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/139. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations[79] and the action taken by the Special Committee in respect of that information,

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General on the item,[80]

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 50/32 of 6 December 1995, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. *Approves* the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;[79]

2. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 *e* of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

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[78] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-eighth Session*, vol. I, *Resolutions*, sect. IV.A.4.

[79] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/51/23), chap. VIII.

[80] A/51/316 and Add.1.

51/140. Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[81]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all its other relevant resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsing the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[82]

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that constitutes an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and obstructs efforts aimed at the elimination of colonialism is a direct violation of the rights of the inhabitants and of the principles of the Charter and all relevant resolutions of the United Nations,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the indigenous populations of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when done in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and could also make a valid contribution to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about the activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests which exploit the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories and deprive them of their right to control the wealth of their countries,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories;

3. *Reiterates* that any administering Power that deprives the colonial peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories of the exercise of their legitimate rights over their natural resources, or subordinates the rights and interests of those peoples to foreign economic and financial interests, violates the solemn obligations it has assumed under the Charter;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about the activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests which continue to exploit the natural resources that are the heritage of the indigenous populations of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, as well as their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, thus depriving them of their right to control the resources of their Territories and impeding the realization by those peoples of their legitimate aspirations for self-determination and independence;

5. *Reiterates its deep concern* about those activities of foreign economic and other interests in the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV), and the efforts to eliminate colonialism;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of its resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in colonial and Non-Self-

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[81] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/51/23), chap. V.

[82] See A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises and to prevent new investments that run counter to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories;

7. *Reiterates* that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories by foreign economic interests, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of those activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration;

12. *Appeals* to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts for the implementation of the Declaration;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of the indigenous peoples and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories, in order to facilitate and accelerate the exercise by the peoples of those Territories of their right to self-determination and independence;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/141. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the reports submitted on the item by the Secretary-General[83] and the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[84]

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[85]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, and resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

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[83] A/51/212.

[84] A/AC.109/L.1853.

[85] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/51/23), chap. VII.

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community, as well as other regional organizations, for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling its relevant resolutions,

Recalling its resolution 50/34 of 6 December 1995 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples[84] on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;[86]

2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

4. *Reaffirms also* that the recognition by the General Assembly and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspiration of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, as well as regional organizations, to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories and strengthen existing measures of support, and, in that regard, to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates;

7. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

8. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

9. *Welcomes* the continuing initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

10. *Encourages* Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

11. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

12. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations and, in that connection, accord priority to the question of providing

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[86] See E/1996/85.

assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

14. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate[87] and its resolution 1996/37 of 26 July 1996 on this issue, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

15. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/142. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/35 of 6 December 1995,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,[88] prepared pursuant to its resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954,

Conscious of the importance of promoting the educational advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Strongly convinced that the continuation and expansion of offers of scholarships is essential in order to meet the increasing need of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories for educational and training assistance, and considering that students in those Territories should be encouraged to avail themselves of such offers,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[88]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Invites* all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students;

4. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to offers of study and training facilities made by States and to provide all the necessary facilities to enable students to avail themselves of such offers;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/143. Question of Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 50/36 of 6 December 1995,

Recalling also the agreement in principle given on 30 August 1988 by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to the proposals of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the then Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in the context of their joint mission of good offices,

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[87] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Plenary Meetings*, 44th meeting (E/1996/SR.44).

[88] A/51/373.

Recalling further Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990 and 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council approved the settlement plan for Western Sahara,

Recalling all the Security Council resolutions relating to the question of Western Sahara, in particular resolutions 621 (1988) of 20 September 1988, 725 (1991) of 31 December 1991, 809 (1993) of 2 March 1993, 907 (1994) of 29 March 1994, 973 (1995) of 13 January 1995, 995 (1995) of 26 May 1995, 1002 (1995) of 30 June 1995, 1017 (1995) of 22 September 1995, 1033 (1995) of 19 December 1995 and 1042 (1996) of 31 January 1996, as well as all General Assembly resolutions relating to the question of Western Sahara,

Recalling with satisfaction the entry into force of the ceasefire in Western Sahara on 6 September 1991, in accordance with the proposal of the Secretary-General, and stressing the importance it attaches to the maintenance of the ceasefire as an integral part of the settlement plan,

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara, as provided for in the settlement plan,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 1056 (1996) of 29 May 1996, by which the Council decided to suspend the identification process and to reduce the military component of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara owing to the absence of progress in the implementation of the settlement plan,

Seriously concerned about the risks that this impasse has on the implementation process of the settlement plan for the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and on the peace and stability of the region,

Stressing the importance and usefulness of the resumption of direct talks between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro in order to create an atmosphere of mutual confidence necessary for overcoming the obstacles to the implementation of the settlement plan,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[89]

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[90]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Reiterates its support* for further efforts of the Secretary-General for the organization and supervision by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in conformity with Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) and 690 (1991), by which the Council approved the settlement plan for Western Sahara;

3. *Reaffirms* that the goal on which all were agreed consists of the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum for the people of Western Sahara, organized and conducted by the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity and without any military or administrative constraints, in conformity with the settlement plan;

4. *Expresses its serious concern* about the persistence of obstacles to the implementation of the settlement plan;

5. *Takes note* of Security Council resolution 1056 (1996), by which the Council decided to suspend the identification process and to reduce the military component of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara owing to the absence of progress in the implementation of the settlement plan;

6. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara, as provided for in the settlement plan, and in this regard fully subscribes to the commitment of the Security Council and the Secretary-General concerning the fulfilment of their respective mandates, consisting of the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara;

7. *Declares its conviction* of the importance and usefulness of direct contacts between the two parties with a view to overcoming their differences and creating propitious conditions for a speedy and effective implementation of the settlement plan, and encourages in this regard the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to start direct talks as soon as possible;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara, bearing in mind the ongoing referendum process, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/144. Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,[91]

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[89] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/51/23), chap. IX.

[90] A/51/428.

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Welcoming the strengthening of the process of review of the Matignon Accords[92] through the increased frequency of coordination meetings,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia and building on the positive outcome of the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

2. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians according to the letter and the spirit of the Matignon Accords, which are based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

3. *Welcomes* measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon Accords;

4. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

5. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

6. *Notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting New Caledonia's natural environment, notably the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

7. *Acknowledges* the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and provincial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the countries members of the South Pacific Forum;

8. *Welcomes*, in particular, in this regard, continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the South Pacific Forum;

9. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue the examination of this question at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

51/145. Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the question of Tokelau,[93]

Recalling the solemn declaration on the future status of Tokelau delivered by the *Ulu-o-Tokelau* (the highest authority on Tokelau) on 30 July 1994, that an act of self-determination in Tokelau is now under active consideration, together with the constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the present preference of Tokelau is for a status of free association with New Zealand,

Recalling also the emphasis placed in the solemn declaration on the terms of Tokelau's intended free association relationship with New Zealand, including the expectation that the form of help Tokelau could continue to expect from New Zealand in promoting the well-being of its people, besides its external interests, would be clearly established in the framework of that relationship,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

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[91] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/51/23), chap. IX.

[92] See A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9-14.

[93] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/51/23), chap. XI.

Recalling the dispatch in 1994 of a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting also that, as a case study pointing to successful decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. *Also notes* Tokelau's desire to move at its own pace towards an act of self-determination;

3. *Commends* Tokelau for seeking on the basis of wide consultation with its people a form of national government that reflects its unique traditions and environment, and for charting its own constitutional course;

4. *Acknowledges* the collaboration between New Zealand and Tokelau regarding the Tokelau Amendment Act 1996, which provides Tokelau's national government with a legislative power, supplementing the executive power delegated in 1994;

5. *Also acknowledges* Tokelau's need for reassurance, given that local resources cannot adequately cover the material side of self-determination, and the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau's external partners to assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

6. *Welcomes* the assurances of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

7. *Invites* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue their assistance to the social and economic development of Tokelau.

83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996

IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

CONTENTS

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/164	Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries	142
51/165	Net flows and transfer of resources between developing and developed countries	144
51/166	Global financial integration and strengthening collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions	145
51/167	International trade and development	146
51/168	Transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours	149
51/169	Commodities	150
51/170	Industrial development cooperation	151
51/171	Food and sustainable agricultural development	153
51/172	Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system	153
51/173	Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade	154
51/174	Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership	155
51/175	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy	155
51/176	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	156
51/177	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)	157
51/178	First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty	159
51/179	Report of the World Commission on Culture and Development	162
51/180	Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa	163
51/181	Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21	164
51/182	Convention on Biological Diversity	166
51/183	Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	167
51/184	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind	169

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/185	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction	170
51/186	Progress at mid-decade on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children	171
51/187	United Nations University	173
51/188	United Nations Institute for Training and Research	173
51/189	Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	174
51/190	Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources	176
51/191	United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions	176

51/164. Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993 and 50/92 of 20 December 1995 and the relevant provisions of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[1] as well as the results, as agreed, of all major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held since the beginning of the 1990s,

Reaffirming the urgent need for effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries and to help them to exit from the rescheduling process,

Noting the improvement in the debt situation of a number of developing countries since the second half of the 1980s and the contribution that the evolving debt strategy has made to this improvement, noting with appreciation the debt-relief measures taken by creditor countries both within the framework of the Paris Club and through their cancellation and equivalent relief of bilateral official debt, and welcoming the even more favourable debt-relief measures taken by the Paris Club on the basis of the Naples terms of December 1994,

Stressing the need for a full and swift implementation of those initiatives, which will further assist developing countries, in particular the poorest and heavily indebted countries, especially in Africa, in their efforts to improve their debt situation in view of their continued very high level of total debt stock and servicing burdens,

Emphasizing the importance for debtor countries of continuing to pursue and intensify their efforts with respect to economic reforms, and stabilization and structural adjustment programmes, in order to raise savings and investments, reduce inflation and improve economic efficiency, taking into account the need to address the social aspects of development, including the eradication of poverty, and their individual characteristics, as well as the vulnerability of the poorer strata of their populations,

Noting with concern the continuing debt and debt-servicing problems of indebted developing countries as constituting an element adversely affecting their development efforts and economic growth, and stressing the importance of alleviating the onerous debt and debt-service burdens connected with various types of debt of many developing countries, on the basis of an effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable approach and, where appropriate, addressing the full stock of debt of the poorest and most indebted developing countries as a matter of priority,

Noting that those developing countries that have continued, at great cost to themselves, to meet their international debt and debt-service obligations in a timely fashion have done so despite serious external and domestic financial constraints,

Expressing its concern that debt-relief measures taken so far have not yet fully provided effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the outstanding debt and debt-servicing problems of a large number of developing countries, in particular the poorest and heavily indebted countries,

Noting the situation in some creditor countries with economies in transition in addressing the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries,

Stressing the need for continuing global economic growth and the necessity for a continuing supportive international economic environment with regard to, *inter alia*, terms of trade, commodity prices, improved market access, trade practices, access to technology, exchange rates and international interest rates, and noting the continued need for resources for sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the developing country debt situation as at mid-1996;[2]

2. *Recognizes* that effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries can contribute substantially to the strengthening of the global economy and to the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

3. *Notes* that further progress, including swift implementation of innovative approaches and concrete measures, is essential for contributing to effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, particularly the poorest and heavily indebted countries;

4. *Stresses* the importance for developing countries of continuing their efforts to promote a favourable environment for attracting foreign investment, thereby promoting economic growth and sustainable development so as to favour their exit from debt and debt-servicing problems, and also stresses the need for the international community to promote a conducive external economic environment through, *inter alia*, improved market access, stabilization of exchange rates, effective stewardship of international interest rates, increased resource flows, access to international financial markets, flow of financial resources and improved access to technology for the developing countries;

5. *Also stresses* that the evolving debt strategy must be accompanied by a favourable and supportive international economic environment, including the full implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/51/48).

[2] A/51/294.

negotiations, and the Marrakesh ministerial decisions in favour of the least developed countries and the net food-importing developing countries;[3]

6. *Welcomes* the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative endorsed by the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund and the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, designed to enable eligible heavily indebted poor countries to achieve a sustainable debt situation through coordinated action by all creditors on the basis of adjustment efforts by the debtor countries;

7. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Initiative requires additional financial resources from both bilateral and multilateral creditors without affecting the support required for development activities of developing countries, welcomes the commitment made to provide additional resources for the Initiative, and invites bilateral donors to contribute to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the Initiative;

8. *Stresses* the urgent need for the developed countries to give the Initiative the support it both needs and deserves and to implement it flexibly to ensure that the performance already achieved is taken into account in determining the duration of adjustment required to reach, with the assistance of all creditors, an exit from debt rescheduling;

9. *Also stresses* the importance of implementing the Initiative's eligibility criteria flexibly, in a transparent manner, and with the full involvement of the debtor country, and further stresses the importance of continuously evaluating and actively monitoring the implications of the existing terms of the eligibility criteria in the implementation of the Initiative, so as to ensure sufficient coverage of heavily indebted poor countries;

10. *Underlines* the importance of the transparency and involvement of debtor countries in any review and analysis that will be conducted during the adjustment period;

11. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the Paris Club to go beyond the Naples terms to provide debt reduction, including some debt stock forgiveness for the poorest and most heavily indebted countries, stresses the need for the swift implementation of that decision, and urges all other bilateral creditors to make comparable contributions in the context of coordinated efforts by all countries;

12. *Recognizes* the efforts of indebted developing countries in regard to fulfilling their commitments on debt servicing despite the incurring of a high social cost and, in this regard, encourages private creditors and, in particular, commercial banks to continue their initiatives and efforts to address the commercial debt problems of middle-income developing countries;

13. *Invites* creditor countries, private banks and multilateral financial institutions, within their prerogatives, to continue the initiatives and efforts to address the commercial debt problems of the least developed countries and the requests for continued mobilization of resources through the Debt-reduction Facility of the International Development Association in order to help eligible least developed countries reduce their commercial debt;

14. *Invites* the International Monetary Fund to continue devising concrete measures and action to address the problems faced by indebted developing countries, including the provision of bilateral contributions and, if the need arises, to consider optimizing its reserves management in order to facilitate the financing of the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility;

15. *Reaffirms* the Mid-term Global Review of Progress towards the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[4] in particular the appropriate actions in favour of those countries concerning their official bilateral, commercial and multilateral debt;

16. *Notes with concern* the continuing burden of debt and debt-service obligations of middle-income countries, including in particular those in Africa, and encourages creditors, including multilateral financial institutions and commercial banks, to continue to address their obligations effectively;

17. *Stresses* the importance of continued concessional Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility lending operations for low-income developing countries;

18. *Also stresses* the need for, in addition to debt-relief measures that include debt and debt-service reduction, new financial flows to debtor developing countries from all sources, and urges creditor countries and multilateral financial institutions to continue to extend concessional financial assistance, particularly to the least developed countries, in order to support the implementation of economic reforms, stabilization and structural adjustment programmes and the eradication of poverty by the developing countries so as to enable them to extricate themselves from the debt overhang and attract new investment and to assist them in achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

19. *Further stresses* the urgent need to continue to provide social safety nets to vulnerable groups most adversely affected by the implementation of economic reform programmes in the debtor countries, in particular low-income groups;

20. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the private sector, to take appropriate measures and action for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since the beginning of the 1990s on development related to the question of external debt;

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[3] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[4] Resolution 50/103, annex.

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to closely follow the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the Initiative and of the present resolution.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/165. Net flows and transfer of resources between developing and developed countries

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 47/178 of 22 December 1992 and 49/93 of 19 December 1994,

Taking note of the *World Economic and Social Survey, 1996*,[5] in particular chapter III thereof, entitled "The international economy", and the report of the Secretary-General on the net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries,[6]

Recognizing that, while developing countries have primary responsibility for their own development, there is continuing need for the international community to give strong support to their efforts to solve their economic and social problems through, *inter alia*, the promotion of a favourable international economic environment,

Noting that for many developing countries, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries, official development assistance remains an important source of financial resources to support their development efforts,

Recognizing the increasing role of private investment and that the completion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations was a major step by the international community towards the expansion of the rule-based international trading system, advancing liberalization in international trade and creating a more secure trading environment,

Noting that capital flows, in particular private capital flows, to developing countries have been increasing strongly but that not all countries have benefited from such flows and that short-term capital movements can be unpredictable,

Noting also that the future course of net transfer of resources to developing countries depends on a growth-oriented and supportive international economic environment and on sound domestic economic policies,

Stressing the unpredictable character of short-term private capital movements, which are particularly subject to interest-rate variations and other possible fluctuations in the domestic and international economic environment,

Noting that in the 1990s the net transfer of resources from the Bretton Woods institutions to developing countries has been negative in real terms, although it has been positive to countries in Africa and to certain countries in Asia, and noting also that the net financial transfer from regional banks to developing countries, taken together, has been generally positive in the 1990s, although it became slightly negative in 1994 and 1995,

Expressing its concern at the recent decline in the overall level of official development assistance,

Bearing in mind that all countries, particularly the major industrialized countries, which have significant weight in influencing world economic growth and the international economic environment, should continue their efforts to promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, to narrow imbalances, and to cooperate with the developing countries so as to enhance their ability to address and alleviate their major problems in the areas of money, finance, resource flows, trade, commodities and external indebtedness,

1. *Stresses* the need to increase efforts to ensure the flow of substantial resources to developing countries through, *inter alia*, an expansion of multilateral credits, the promotion of foreign direct investment and an increase in concessional and non-debt resources;

2. *Also stresses* that private capital flows are an important external source of financing for sustainable development and that attracting such investment requires, *inter alia*, sound fiscal and monetary policies, accountable governmental institutions and transparent legal and regulatory regimes;

3. *Reaffirms* the pressing need of developing countries for official development assistance, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries, and urges countries to strive to fulfil, consistent with commitments in international agreements, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for official development assistance to the developing countries, and the target, where agreed, of 0.15 per cent of the gross national product of the developed countries for official development assistance to the least developed countries as soon as possible;

4. *Stresses* the need to mobilize public support for development cooperation, *inter alia*, through a strategy based on partnership between developed and developing countries which incorporates, as appropriate, mutually agreed goals for development;

5. *Also stresses* the importance of the role of the International Development Association as a highly concessional lending arm of the World Bank for promoting development in eligible developing countries, and urges donors fully to honour their commitment thereto, in particular to the eleventh replenishment of the Association, and to secure its adequate future funding;

6. *Appeals* to all countries to continue to cooperate and work together on issues relating to the Enhanced Structural

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[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.II.C.1.

[6] A/51/291.

Adjustment Facility, with a view to arriving at a self-sustained facility, including the provision of bilateral contributions; if the need arises, the International Monetary Fund should consider optimizing its reserves management in order to facilitate financing of the Facility;

7. *Urges* all international financial institutions and donor countries, as appropriate, to continue their own efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of their lending, *inter alia*, through thorough assessment of the contributions to sustainable development of projects financed, effective monitoring and evaluation, and increased concessionality, where appropriate;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor developments in the net flows and transfer of resources between developing and developed countries and to utilize all relevant reports, such as those provided by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the regional development banks, and to report thereon in the *World Economic and Social Survey, 1997*, and also requests the Secretary-General to report, in close cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Bretton Woods institutions, to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/166. Global financial integration and strengthening collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 50/91 of 20 December 1995, entitled "Global financial integration: challenges and opportunities", and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/43 of 26 July 1996 on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions,

Expressing concern that a number of developing countries have become more vulnerable, in the course of liberalizing their external economic and financial regimes, to the volatile fluctuations of private capital flows in international financial markets, and stressing the importance at the national level in the countries concerned of a favourable climate for private financial flows, sound macroeconomic policies and appropriate functioning of markets,

Welcoming the initiative the Bretton Woods institutions have taken to address the question of the volatility of capital flows,

Recalling its resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, annex I, section VIII, on the relationship between the United Nations and the international finance and trade institutions, as well as other relevant resolutions,

1. *Recognizes* that technological advances have reduced the costs and increased the speed of international financial transactions and that, as policy liberalization has facilitated international capital flows, financial institutions have increasingly added foreign assets to their portfolios, paving the way towards the phenomenon of global financial integration;

2. *Stresses* that global financial integration presents new challenges and opportunities for the international community and that it should constitute a very important element of the dialogue between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions;

3. *Notes* that the globalization of financial markets can generate new risks of instability, including interest rate and exchange rate fluctuations and volatile short-term capital flows, which require all countries to pursue sound economic policies and to recognize the external economic impact of their domestic policies;

4. *Stresses* that sound domestic macroeconomic policies of each country in regard to promoting macroeconomic stability and growth are primary elements for determining private capital flows, and that the coordination of macroeconomic policies, where appropriate, and a favourable international economic environment play an important role in reinforcing their effectiveness;

5. *Also stresses* that implementation of sound domestic monetary, fiscal and structural policies over the medium term, including ensuring sound banking systems, is required to promote financial and exchange rate stability;

6. *Further stresses* that Governments and international financial institutions have a contribution to make to reducing the risks of volatility of short-term capital flows and to promoting stability in domestic financial markets, within their respective competences;

7. *Recognizes* the progress made in improving risk management and transparency in international financial markets, such as the International Monetary Fund's improved surveillance capacities, standards for the provision of economic and financial information to markets and the creation of an emergency financing mechanism;

8. *Also recognizes* the progress made in establishing the new arrangements to borrow, which would effectively double the resources currently available to the International Monetary Fund under the General Arrangements to Borrow and improve the Fund's ability to assist members in circumstances that could have systemic implications;

9. *Recalls* that, in the context of global financial integration, further efforts have to be made, at both the national and international levels, to strengthen international economic cooperation;

10. *Recognizes* that a number of developing countries have been able to take advantage of the globalization of finance, and notes the need for the expansion of private capital flows and for broader access by all developing countries to

those flows, and therefore the need for the international community to assist low-income countries, especially those in Africa, in their efforts to create the enabling environment necessary to attract such flows;

11. *Notes* that a number of developing countries, among them most of the least developed countries, especially those of Africa, have not benefited from the globalization of finance and continue to be in great need of official development assistance;

12. *Recognizes*, in this context, that the regular lending programmes of the multilateral institutions, recent initiatives aiming at enhancing the confidence of the financial markets, and the operational activities of the United Nations system, *inter alia*, in promoting capacity-building for sound financial management, contribute to assisting recipient countries, particularly developing countries, in such adjustment and stabilization efforts as are conducive to their development process;

13. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/43 on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions, and calls for its full implementation;

14. *Notes* that cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions continues to be strengthened at the level of operational activities for development;

15. *Considers* that the strengthening of collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions requires an integrated approach, encompassing a closer policy dialogue at the intergovernmental level on relevant areas of international development policy issues, taking into account their respective competences;

16. *Stresses* the need for encouragement of private flows to all countries, in particular to developing countries, while reducing the risks of volatility;

17. *Emphasizes* the need to explore ways to broaden appropriate enhanced cooperation and, where appropriate, coordination of macroeconomic policy among interested countries, monetary and financial authorities and institutions, so as to enhance preventive consultation arrangements between such institutions as a means of promoting a stable international financial environment conducive to economic growth, particularly of developing countries, taking into account the needs of developing countries as well as situations that may have a significant impact upon the international financial system;

18. *Reiterates* the need for broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process;

19. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the International Monetary Fund, and recognizes the need for a stronger and central role for the Fund in surveillance of all countries, in a symmetrical manner;

20. *Reaffirms* the objective of promoting greater transparency and openness, including increasing participation of developing countries in the work of the International Monetary Fund, this objective also involving, among other elements, the regular and timely provision of economic and financial data by all Fund members;

21. *Welcomes* the decision of the Economic and Social Council that the theme of its high-level segment in 1997 will be: "Fostering an enabling environment for development - financial flows, including capital flows; investment; trade";

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, in cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, on the implementation of the present resolution.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/167. International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/95 and 50/98 of 20 December 1995, as well as relevant international agreements concerning trade, economic growth, development and interrelated issues,

Emphasizing the importance of an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system,

Emphasizing also that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the economic growth of the world economy, including the creation of employment, in particular for the growth and development of the developing countries, and emphasizing further that each country is responsible for its own economic policies for sustainable development,

Noting with satisfaction the highly successful outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Midrand, South Africa, from 27 April to 11 May 1996, and the strengthened spirit of genuine partnership and solidarity that emerged therefrom,

Expressing its deep gratitude to the Government and the people of South Africa for the hospitality extended to the participants in the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Welcoming with appreciation the generous offer made by the Government and the people of Thailand to host the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the year 2000,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government and the people of Singapore for hosting the inaugural Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization,

I

1. *Endorses* the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Midrand, South Africa, in April and May 1996, in particular the document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development",[7] which builds upon various related agreements and conferences, and expresses its political will and responsibility with respect to implementing the agreed commitments;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-third session;[8]

3. *Welcomes* the fact that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as part of the United Nations system and a contributor to its revitalization, has adopted far-reaching reforms, as embodied in the Midrand Declaration and the document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development",[7] adopted by consensus at the ninth session of the Conference, which encompass its programme of work, its intergovernmental machinery and the reform of its secretariat, including its complementarity with the World Trade Organization, *inter alia*, by making its analysis of trade and development available to the World Trade Organization, and its cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and relevant organizations, thus adapting itself to new economic and institutional modalities created by the process of globalization, the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations agreements[9] and the creation of the World Trade Organization;

4. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session to building a lasting partnership for development between non-governmental actors and the Conference and the initiative taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to hold meetings with relevant actors;

5. *Recognizes* the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development;

6. *Also recognizes* that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, having a comparative advantage in tackling trade-related development issues, should continue to facilitate the integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in a complementary manner with the World Trade Organization, and to promote development through trade and investment in cooperation and coordination with the International Trade Centre, relevant institutions of the United Nations system and other international organizations;

7. *Invites*, in this context, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue, *inter alia*, to follow developments in the international trading system, in particular their implications for developing countries, and to identify new opportunities arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements;

8. *Decides*, in this context, that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should implement its programme of work with a focus on the issues of globalization and development, international trade in goods and services and commodity matters, investment, enterprise development and technology, services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency;

9. *Invites* the President of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session to consider convening a special high-level review meeting two years prior to the tenth session of the Conference;

II

10. *Stresses* the urgent need to continue trade liberalization in developed and developing countries, including liberalization through a substantial reduction of tariff and other barriers to trade, in particular non-tariff barriers, and the elimination of discriminatory and protectionist practices in international trade relations, which will have the effect of improving access for the exports of developing countries, enhancing the competitiveness of their domestic industries and facilitating structural adjustment among developed economies;

11. *Also stresses* the need for the full integration of economies in transition, as well as other countries, into the world economy, in particular through improved market access for their exports in accordance with the multilateral trading agreements, and recognizes in this respect the importance of open regional economic integration of interested economies in transition among themselves, as well as with developed and developing countries, in creating new possibilities for expanding trade and investment;

12. *Recognizes* that the World Trade Organization provides the framework for an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system, and stresses that all members of the World Trade Organization should implement their commitments in respect of the Uruguay Round agreements in a full, timely, faithful and continuous manner and that all provisions of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations[9] should be effectively applied, so as to maximize economic growth and the developmental benefits thereof for all, taking into account specific difficulties and interests of developing countries;

13. *Urges* Governments and concerned organizations to implement fully and expeditiously the Ministerial Decision on Measures in Favour of the Least Developed Countries[9] and to apply effectively the Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform

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[7] See A/51/308.

[8] A/51/15 (vol. II); see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 15*.

[9] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries,[9] as well as the recommendations adopted at the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and at the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as they relate to trade and trade-related issues of the least developed countries;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the strengthening of, and the attaining of greater universality by, the international trading system, welcomes the process directed towards accession to the World Trade Organization of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and emphasizes the necessity for World Trade Organization member Governments and relevant international organizations to assist non-World Trade Organization members so as to facilitate their efforts with respect to accession in an expeditious manner on the basis of World Trade Organization rights and obligations and for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to provide technical assistance, thereby contributing to their rapid and full integration into the multilateral trading system;

15. *Also emphasizes* the importance of the inaugural Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held at Singapore in December 1996, in regard to reviewing the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements and their built-in agenda, stressing that the pursuit of that agenda, as well as the international community's handling of new issues affecting the conduct of international trade relations, should be carried out in a balanced manner which takes into account the concerns of all countries, including developing countries;

16. *Further emphasizes* that the dispute settlement mechanism of the World Trade Organization is a key element with regard to the integrity and credibility of the multilateral trading system and the full realization of the benefits anticipated from the conclusion of the Uruguay Round;

17. *Deplores* any attempt to bypass or undermine multilaterally agreed procedures on the conduct of international trading by resorting to unilateral actions over and above those agreed in the Uruguay Round, and affirms that environmental and social concerns should not be used for protectionist purposes;

18. *Emphasizes* the need for a balanced and integrated approach to environment, trade and development issues;

19. *Reaffirms* that Governments should have as their objective to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive so as to achieve sustainable development and that, in doing so, their environmental policies and measures with a potential trade impact should not be used for protectionist purposes, and reaffirms also that positive measures such as market access, capacity-building, improved access to finance and access to transfer of technology, taking into account the relationship between trade-related agreements and technology, are effective instruments in assisting developing countries to meet multilaterally agreed targets, while noting that trade measures can, in certain cases, play a role in achieving the objectives of multilateral trade agreements, while safeguarding a non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system;

III

20. *Recognizes* the important progress made in understanding the relationship between trade and environment in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization, as well as in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and in the Commission on Sustainable Development, including the recommendations made at its fourth session, and requests the Conference to continue its work on trade, environment and development, in cooperation with relevant international organizations including the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, regional organizations and the World Trade Organization;

21. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its special role in promoting the integration of trade, environment and development, in accordance with paragraph 27 of resolution 50/95, by examining trade and environment issues from a development perspective, in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Trade Organization and as task manager for the Commission on Sustainable Development;

22. *Stresses* the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the context of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

23. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, on the basis of the outcome of its ninth session, to identify and analyse the implications for development of issues relevant to investment, taking into account the interests of developing countries and bearing in mind the work undertaken by other organizations;

24. *Reaffirms* the need to give priority to the problems facing the least developed countries, and reaffirms in particular that actions, as appropriate, should be taken to assist the least developed countries to maximize the potential opportunities and minimize possible difficulties arising from the Uruguay Round agreements;

25. *Requests* Governments, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take concrete measures to implement fully and as a matter of urgency the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[10] including the measures and recommendations agreed upon at its mid-term review, especially those related to trade and development;

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[10] Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

26. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme to improve collaboration between the Conference's country-level programmes for least developed countries and the overall macroeconomic and sectoral policy dialogue in respect of those countries at the World Bank Consultative Group and United Nations Development Programme Round Tables, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 50/120 of 20 December 1995;

27. *Stresses* the need to give special attention, within the context of international cooperation on trade and development issues, to the implementation of the many international development commitments geared to meeting the special development needs and problems of small island developing States and of landlocked developing States, as well as to recognize that developing countries which provide transit services need adequate support in maintaining and improving their transit infrastructure;

28. *Invites* preference-giving countries to continue to improve and renew their Generalized System of Preferences schemes in keeping with the post-Uruguay Round trading system and with the objective of integrating developing countries, especially least developed countries, into the international trading system, and stresses that ways and means should be found to ensure more effective utilization of Generalized System of Preferences schemes, particularly by least developed countries;

29. *Notes* the concern among the beneficiaries that the enlargement of the scope of the Generalized System of Preferences by linking eligibility to non-trade considerations may detract value from its original principles, namely, non-discrimination, universality, burden sharing and non-reciprocity;

30. *Stresses* that Governments, as well as international organizations, should extend technical assistance to developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in the international trading system;

31. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to further promote South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, recalling the results of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on South-South Cooperation, held in New York from 31 July to 4 August 1995, and the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference;

32. *Notes* that the forthcoming South-South conference on finance, trade and investment, to be held at San José, Costa Rica, will provide an opportunity for developing countries to advance initiatives related to the document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development", and invites the international community to support the initiative;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to submit a proposal on savings resulting from improved overall cost-effectiveness achieved pursuant to the ninth session of the Conference, including the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and reform of the secretariat, and to submit a proposal on how to reallocate a part of the savings in the 1998-1999 budget cycle, with a view to strengthening the Conference's capabilities in priority areas, including, *inter alia*, in technical cooperation.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/168. Transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/169 and 48/170 of 21 December 1993 and 49/102 of 19 December 1994,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the first[11] and the second[12] Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, held in New York from 17 to 19 May 1993 and from 19 to 22 June 1995, respectively, and in particular the conclusions and recommendations of those meetings pertaining to the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours,

Recognizing that the overall socio-economic development efforts of newly independent and developing landlocked States, seeking to enter world markets through the establishment of a multicountry transit system, are impeded by a lack of territorial access to the sea as well as by remoteness and isolation from world markets,

Supporting the current efforts being undertaken by the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours through relevant multilateral, bilateral and regional arrangements to address the issues regarding the development of a viable transit infrastructure in the region,

Considering that the outcome of the Symposium for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, held in New York from 14 to 16 June 1995, in particular the document entitled "Global framework for transit transport cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries and the donor community",[13] is a practical contribution to the development objectives and efforts of the United Nations,

Taking note of the progress report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on measures designed to improve the transit transport environment in Central Asia,[14] and considering that the problems of transit transport facing the Central Asian region need to be seen against the backdrop of economic changes and the accompanying challenges, including especially the impact of those changes on the international and intraregional trade of the countries concerned,

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[11] See TD/B/40(1)/2-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/4.

[12] See TD/B/42(1)/11-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7.

[13] Ibid., annex I.

[14] A/51/288, annex.

Recognizing that, to be effective, a transit transport strategy for the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours should incorporate actions that address both the problems inhering in the use of existing transit routes and the early development and smooth functioning of new, alternative routes,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening international support measures to address further the problems of the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours,

1. *Takes note* of the results of the Technical Meeting on Central Asia's Transit Transport Links with World Markets,[15] held at Ankara from 7 to 9 November 1995, under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Governments concerned, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe and relevant regional and international organizations and in accordance with approved programme priorities and within existing financial resources, to continue elaborating a programme for improving the efficiency of the current transit environment in the newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours;

3. *Invites* donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions, within their mandates, to provide newly independent and developing landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours with appropriate financial and technical assistance for the improvement of the transit environment for those countries;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue studying, within the scope of the implementation of the present resolution, possible ways of promoting more effective cooperative arrangements between landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit neighbours and to encourage a more active supportive role on the part of the donor community;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/169. Commodities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/200 of 21 December 1990, 47/185 of 22 December 1992, 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 49/104 of 19 December 1994, and stressing the urgent need to ensure their full implementation,

Recognizing that in many developing countries, in particular African countries and least developed countries, the commodity sector remains the principal source of export revenues and of the creation of employment, income and savings, and a driving force of investments and contributor to growth and development,

Also recognizing the need for a better functioning of commodity markets and the necessity of stable and more predictable commodity prices, including searching for long-term solutions,

Mindful of the need for developing countries, especially African countries and least developed countries, to diversify their economies, in particular the commodity sector, with a view to modernizing their production, distribution and marketing systems, enhancing productivity and stabilizing and increasing their export earnings,

Concerned about the difficulties experienced by the developing countries in financing and implementing viable diversification programmes,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including the Midrand Declaration and the document entitled "A Partnership for Growth and Development",[16] related to the issues of commodities;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for developing countries that are heavily dependent on primary commodities of continuing to promote a domestic policy and an institutional environment that encourage diversification and enhance competitiveness;

3. *Notes* the need expressed by developing countries, in particular the commodity-dependent developing countries, for stable and more predictable commodity prices, in the face of instability and decline in real terms of the prices of many commodities;

4. *Expresses* the urgent need for supportive international policies to improve the functioning of commodity markets through efficient and transparent price formation mechanisms, including commodity exchanges, and through the use of commodity price risk management instruments;

5. *Urges* developed countries to continue to support the commodity diversification efforts of developing countries, especially African countries, in a spirit of common purpose and efficiency, *inter alia*, by providing technical and financial assistance for the preparatory phase of their commodity diversification programmes;

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[15] See UNCTAD/LLDC/Misc.4.

[16] See A/51/308.

6. *Reiterates* the importance of maximizing the contribution of the commodity sector to economic growth and sustainable development in commodity-dependent developing countries and, in this respect, stresses, *inter alia*, that:

(*a*) Trade-distorting policies and practices, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, tariff escalation and obstacles to competition, have a negative effect on the ability of developing countries to diversify their exports and to undertake the requisite restructuring of their commodity sector;

(*b*) Expansion of South-South trade in commodities offers opportunities for intersectoral linkages within and among exporting countries;

(*c*) In line with Agenda 21[17] and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[18] Governments should have as their objective to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive so as to achieve sustainable development; in so doing, their environmental policies and measures with a potential trade impact should not be used for protectionist purposes;

(*d*) The issues related to commodities in the context of sustainable development should be fully taken into account by all overall review and appraisal machinery of the implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(*e*) There is a need to promote research and development, to provide infrastructure and support services and to encourage investment, including joint ventures in developing countries engaged in the commodity and commodity-processing sectors;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance for developing countries to process a significant part of their commodities, and in that regard stresses the importance of new market opportunities for their processed and semi-processed commodities;

8. *Encourages* the Common Fund for Commodities, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant bodies, to direct its commodity development programmes more towards commodity sector diversification projects, as well as to promote commodity market development in the developing countries, with particular focus on the needs of least developed countries, and to explore effective ways and means of using the resources of the First Account of the Common Fund;

9. *Urges* producers and consumers of individual commodities to intensify their efforts to reinforce mutual cooperation and assistance;

10. *Requests* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant international organizations to continue to provide technical support to the basic food sector of developing countries, in particular net food importing countries, *inter alia*, in meeting their commitments under the Uruguay Round agreements;

11. *Welcomes* the technical cooperation activities that will be undertaken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the World Trade Organization and other concerned international organizations in the field of international commodity trade;

12. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within the framework of its programme of cooperation with the World Trade Organization, to provide analytical information related to the Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries,[19] and encourages it to continue to assist, in accordance with the outcome of its ninth session, in vertical and horizontal diversification in commodity-dependent countries and to promote the use of risk management in favour of producers and exporters;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on world commodity trends and prospects, with particular emphasis on commodity-dependent developing countries in accordance with the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference;

14. *Decides* to include the question of commodities in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/170. Industrial development cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,[20] the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,[21] and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[22]

Recalling also its resolution 49/108 of 19 December 1994 on industrial development cooperation,

Taking note of the declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China at their twentieth annual meeting, held in New York on 27 September

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[17] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[18] Ibid., annex I.

[19] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[20] Resolution S-18/3, annex.

[21] Resolution 45/199, annex.

[22] Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

1996,[23] the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, issued on 25 September 1996,[24] the Midrand Declaration,[25] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session, and the conclusions of the summit meeting of seven major industrialized countries, held at Lyon, France, from 27 to 29 June 1996,[26]

Noting the far-reaching implications of the process of globalization, trade liberalization and rapid technological change for the economic prospects of the developing countries and the economies in transition,

Reaffirming the importance of promoting industrialization as an essential element in the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of developing countries, as well as in the eradication of poverty, facilitating social integration, the integration of women into the development process and the creation of productive employment,

Stressing the need for enhanced international, regional and subregional cooperation in the field of industrial development and the important role played by the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in this regard,

Recognizing the increasing role of the business community, including the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the industrial sector,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[27]

2. *Welcomes* the major programme of reform and restructuring process undertaken by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in providing effective support to the industrial development of the developing countries, and calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue carrying out its central coordinating role in the field of industrial development in the overall context of existing coordinating mechanisms in the United Nations system, *inter alia*, the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the resident coordinator system, so as to enhance the effectiveness, relevance and development impact of such support;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of a favourable international and national environment for the industrialization of developing countries, and urges all Governments to adopt and implement development policies and strategies that promote, within a framework of transparent and accountable industrialization policies, *inter alia*, enterprise development, foreign direct investment, technological adaptation and innovation, expanded access to markets and the effective use of official development assistance to enable developing countries to enhance an environment attractive to investment so as to augment and supplement domestic resources for the expansion, diversification and modernization of their industrial productive capacity, in the context of an open, equitable, non-discriminatory, transparent, multilateral and rule-based international trading system;

5. *Reiterates* the importance of technology transfer to the developing countries as an effective means of international cooperation in the field of industrial development;

6. *Recognizes* the continuing use of official development assistance also for industrial development in the developing countries, and calls on the donor countries and the recipient countries to continue to cooperate in their efforts to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness of official development assistance resources devoted to industrial development cooperation;

7. *Welcomes*, in addition, the use of innovative funding modalities, including, *inter alia*, co-financing schemes and trust funds, debt-equity swaps, as appropriate, and other debt relief measures, industrial joint venture schemes, enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation and venture capital funds for industrial development, in particular in the developing countries;

8. *Calls upon* the international community and the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to support the efforts of the developing countries to intensify and expand industrial cooperation among themselves with respect to, among other things, trade in manufactured products, industrial investments and business partnerships, as well as industrial technology and scientific exchanges;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in cooperation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to undertake, in the context of supporting South-South cooperation, an in-depth assessment and further analysis of best practices in the field of industrial policies and strategies and their relevance in particular regional and country situations, and lessons learned in the field of industrial development, so as to provide practical insights and ideas - such cooperation should better enable developing countries to benefit from each other's successful experiences in the formulation of their industrial policies and strategies - and also requests the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

10. *Also requests* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to expand and enhance its interaction with the business community, including the private

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[23] A/51/471, annex.

[24] A/51/473-S/1996/839, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/839.

[25] See A/51/308.

[26] See A/51/208-S/1996/543; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1996*, document S/1996/543.

[27] A/51/340.

sector, in assisting the development of the industrial sector in the developing countries and economies in transition, in particular in the field of small and medium-sized enterprise development, and welcomes the creation by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization of the International Business Advisory Council;

11. *Invites* Member States and relevant organizations of the United Nations system to extend support to the successful implementation of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, launched on 23 October 1996 at Abidjan, by Governments of African countries and the private sector, which aims at accelerating the pace of Africa's industrialization through industrial capacity-building, including the agro-industrial field, and partnerships between Governments of African countries and the private sector at the national, subregional, regional and international levels;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of the integration of the informal sector into industrial development cooperation, as well as the necessity for the development of human capacities, in particular strengthening women's economic capacity and providing business services to women;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/171. Food and sustainable agricultural development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/109 of 20 December 1995 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/1 of 10 February 1995,

Expressing deep concern at the widespread phenomenon of chronic undernourishment, in particular among women and children in the developing countries,

Expressing concern that the scarcity of freshwater in developing countries, in arid and semi-arid regions, has hampered development efforts, especially agricultural development, which is necessary for food security,

Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger,

Recognizing the contributions made by the major United Nations conferences of the 1990s to an international consensus on food security and related issues,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/36 of 26 July 1996 on follow-up to the major international United Nations conferences and summits, including the implementation of their respective programmes of action,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996;

2. *Urges* all members of the international community, as well as relevant bodies within the United Nations system, including international and regional financial institutions, to cooperate actively in a coordinated manner in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action adopted at the Summit;

3. *Recommends* that, at its special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the General Assembly give due attention to the follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Administrative Committee on Coordination decides on the inter-agency mechanism for the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the incorporation of the mechanism into existing arrangements, and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997 in the context of Council resolution 1996/36;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that a coordinated follow-up at the field level to the World Food Summit is undertaken in the context of the resident coordination system, taking into account the coordinated follow-up to United Nations major international conferences;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, in the context of the follow-up to the major United Nations conferences of the 1990s, including the implementation of their respective programmes of action;

7. *Reiterates* its invitation to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the outcome of the World Food Summit, including actions to be taken to follow up the outcome of the Summit at all appropriate levels.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/172. Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[28] as well as the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the sixth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, held at Harare from 2 to 5 September 1996, and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United

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[28] A/51/314.

Nations system"[29] and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon,[30]

1. *Recalls* its resolution 50/130 of 20 December 1995;

2. *Considers* that informal round tables, such as the sixth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, organized at Harare by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, can constitute a notable mechanism of inter-agency cooperation and coordination for promoting and advancing communication for development, owing, *inter alia*, to their openness to partners outside the United Nations system and the outreach of their outcomes;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of addressing the issue of communication for development within the intergovernmental processes of the United Nations system, according to the respective mandates of the agencies concerned;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[28] and invites the agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to take the recommendations contained in the report into consideration when planning and implementing relevant projects and programmes, with the cooperation of the resident coordinator;

5. *Recognizes* the relevance for concerned actors in development at the country level, including policy makers and decision makers at all levels, to attribute increased importance to communication for development, and encourages them to include it, in an appropriate manner, as an integral component in the development of projects and programmes;

6. *Stresses* the need to support two-way communication systems that enable dialogue and that allow communities to speak out, express their aspirations and concerns and participate in the decisions that relate to their development;

7. *Acknowledges* the interest in holding the next informal round table in the Latin American and Caribbean region, to build upon the meetings held in Asia and Africa, and invites interested States to cooperate with the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the convening of these informal round tables on communication for development, with the participation of the international financial institutions and the regional banks, at the country level;

8. *Reaffirms* the importance of resource mobilization, including financial cooperation, the transfer of technology and capacity-building for communication in development programmes and projects, and calls upon the international community and organizations of the United Nations system to assist developing countries in introducing technologies and innovative methods for enhancing communication for development;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in accordance with the agency's mandate, to inform the General Assembly officially, at its fifty-third session, under an appropriate agenda item, on the implementation of the present resolution, in accordance with the periodicity that was agreed upon in Assembly resolution 50/130.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/173. Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and continued validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling its resolutions 46/144 of 17 December 1991, 47/152 of 18 December 1992, 48/185 of 21 December 1993 and 49/92 of 19 December 1994 on the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy,

Aware that the Declaration, the Strategy and the ongoing discussion on an agenda for development are mutually supportive and closely interlinked,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;[31]

2. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy in the remaining years of the 1990s so as to ensure that the Decade will indeed be one of accelerated development, in particular in the developing countries, and strengthened international economic cooperation;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to identify and take follow-up actions on those commitments and agreements that are not fully implemented and on the constraints to implementation;

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[29] A/50/126-E/1995/20, annex.

[30] A/50/126/Add.1-E/1995/20/Add.1, annex.

[31] A/51/270.

4. *Recognizes* the need to provide particular support to those least developed countries suffering from a deteriorating economic situation;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a progress report on the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy, with particular emphasis on their relationship with and impact on development trends, and on emerging experiences with and consensus on development strategies;

6. *Encourages* Member States to provide, as and when available, reports and papers relevant to the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration and the Strategy in order to assist the Secretary-General in preparing the report called for above;

7. *Calls for* the review and appraisal of the Declaration and the Strategy to be coordinated with the follow-up work on major United Nations conferences and the ongoing discussion on an agenda for development.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/174. Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,

Noting with interest the efforts of the Secretary-General to encourage a constructive dialogue for enhancing development and to facilitate actions in that regard,

Taking into consideration the note by the Secretary-General,[32]

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994 and 50/122 of 20 December 1995 on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the dialogue on economic and development issues between the developed and the developing countries;

3. *Agrees* to defer the holding of the high-level dialogue for a period of two days until the fifty-second session of the General Assembly - the date, modalities and focus of the discussion to be decided by the President of the General Assembly through consultation with Member States, bearing in mind General Assembly decision 50/490 of 16 September 1996 and taking into account the progress and results achieved in the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development, on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications - and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with Governments, all relevant parts of the United Nations system, relevant organizations and other development actors, to make initial preparations for such a dialogue;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including further recommendations for enhancing the dialogue and an assessment of the ongoing efforts for its strengthening, such as the outcome of the discussions in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group, possible future themes for dialogue, and proposals to convene special sessions of the General Assembly on major issues relevant to the dialogue on international economic cooperation for development, including those identified in the agenda for development;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the appropriate item, the sub-item entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership".

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/175. Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 47/187 of 22 December 1992, 48/181 of 21 December 1993 and 49/106 of 19 December 1994,

Reaffirming also the need for the full integration of the countries with economies in transition into the world economy,

Noting the progress made in these countries in achieving macroeconomic stabilization in the course of structural reforms, which require more active investment policies,

Noting also the aspiration of the countries with economies in transition towards the further development of regional and interregional cooperation,

Recognizing the need to ensure favourable conditions for market access of exports from these countries, in accordance with multilateral trading agreements,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[33]

2. *Welcomes* the measures undertaken by the organizations of the United Nations system to implement resolution 49/106, and calls upon those organizations to continue to conduct analytical activities and to provide policy advice and technical assistance to the economies in transition on the social and political framework for economic and market reforms, in particular in regard to the development of the necessary conditions for attracting foreign investments;

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[32] A/51/485.

[33] A/51/285.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/176. Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/128 of 19 December 1994 and 50/124 of 20 December 1995,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/2 of 17 July 1996 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development,

Acknowledging fully the integrated approach taken during the International Conference on Population and Development, which recognizes the interrelationship between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/124,[34]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/124;

2. *Notes* the action taken so far by Governments and the international community to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[35] and encourages them to strengthen their efforts in that regard;

3. *Reiterates* that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to achieving goals and objectives and to take a lead role in coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the follow-up actions at the national level;

4. *Urges* all countries to consider, among other things, their current spending priorities, with a view to making additional contributions in line with national priorities for the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the provisions of chapters XIII and XIV thereof and the economic constraints faced by developing countries, in particular the least developed among them;

5. *Emphasizes* that international cooperation in the field of population and development is essential for the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Conference and, in this context, calls upon the international community to continue to provide, both bilaterally and multilaterally, adequate and substantial support and assistance for population and development activities, including through the United Nations Population Fund, other organs and organizations of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies that will be involved in the implementation, at all levels, of the Programme of Action;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of South-South cooperation for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action and invites all Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support those activities in South-South cooperation being undertaken by the developing countries;

7. *Recognizes* the efforts of Partners in Population and Development in strengthening the capacities of developing countries in South-South cooperation;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the identification and allocation of financial resources by all members of the international community, including regional financial institutions, to enable them to fulfil their commitments with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

9. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to continue to give guidance on matters concerning harmonization, cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action;

10. *Reiterates* that the Commission on Population and Development, as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, has the primary responsibility for monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action, and emphasizes the need for the Commission to continue its work in broadening its focus so as to fully reflect the Programme of Action;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Task Force on Basic Social Services for All of the Administrative Committee on Coordination informs the Commission and the Economic and Social Council on the progress of its work, with an emphasis on the improvement of the impact of programme delivery for the purpose of system-wide coordination, and stresses the need for close cooperation and timely reporting by all the working groups of the Task Force;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of the ongoing efforts of the Task Force to develop, on an urgent basis, appropriate indicators as reliable means for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special attention to the reproductive health needs of individual countries, taking into account relevant research and development work as well as existing data collection systems in developing countries, and to make this information available as it is developed to the Commission on Population and Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

13. *Endorses* the continuation of coordination and collaboration between the Task Force and the appropriate United Nations entities responsible for the development of statistics;

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[34] A/51/350.

[35] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

14. *Reaffirms* that the follow-up to the Conference, at all levels, should take fully into account that population, health, education, poverty, patterns of production and consumption, empowerment of women and the environment are closely interconnected and should be considered through an integrated approach;

15. *Recommends* that the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, which will be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997, should give due attention to the issue of population in the context of sustainable development;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Decides* to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session, the sub-item entitled "Population and development".

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/177. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/180 of 22 December 1992, 49/109 of 19 December 1994 and 50/100 of 20 December 1995 on the convening of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Recognizing the important role of cities and urban areas in economic, political, social and cultural development, and stressing the need to address urgently and comprehensively the deteriorating conditions of shelter and human settlements in rural and urban areas,

Also recognizing the critical problems common to human settlements in the developing countries, including poverty, unemployment, social disintegration, inadequate shelter and lack of proper maintenance of urban and rural infrastructure and services,

Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national, regional and international levels for the implementation of measures designed to alleviate the deteriorating living conditions of increasing populations in both urban and rural settlements,

Recognizing the interdependence of rural and urban development,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)[36] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the Conference, including the role played by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements,[37]

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Turkey for their support and for the facilities, staff and services placed at the disposal of the Conference and the hospitality extended to the participants,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Conference and the staff of the Secretariat for the effective preparations and services provided for the Conference,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);[36]

2. *Endorses* the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[38] and the Habitat Agenda[39] adopted by the Conference on 14 June 1996;

3. *Acknowledges with appreciation* that the Conference provided a major opportunity to build upon the actions and commitments of previous United Nations conferences and summits;

4. *Recognizes with satisfaction* the active involvement in the Conference of all States and other relevant actors and the innovative arrangements introduced at the Conference to forge partnerships among various actors;

5. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, as provided for in international instruments, and in that context recognizes an obligation by Governments to enable people to obtain shelter and to protect and improve dwellings and neighbourhoods;

6. *Recognizes* that Governments have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and further recognizes that the international community should support Governments in their efforts, by promoting international cooperation for, *inter alia*, the establishment of an open, equitable, cooperative and mutually beneficial international economic environment;

7. *Calls upon* all Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other actors concerned with human settlements and urban management issues, such as local authorities, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector, trade unions, academicians and other community groups, to implement fully and effectively the Habitat Agenda, to give both the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration the widest possible dissemination and, in that context, to draw attention to the best practices initiative;

8. *Invites* all Governments to further encourage and support all relevant actors of civil society, including the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Habitat Agenda by establishing effective partnerships and by creating an appropriate framework, in accordance with their respective

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[36] A/CONF.165/14.

[37] A/51/384.

[38] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[39] Ibid., annex II.

national conditions, to further facilitate and expedite such actors in addressing human settlements issues, particularly servicing, finance mobilization, the provision of adequate shelter and related areas, and in that process to emphasize the need to integrate the gender perspective;

9. *Reaffirms* that, in formulating human settlements policies and strategies, all countries should recognize the interdependence of rural and urban areas and address the needs of both in a balanced manner;

10. *Calls upon* all Governments to establish or strengthen, as appropriate, participatory mechanisms for the implementation, assessment and review of and follow-up to the Habitat Agenda and national plans of action;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for all countries and for the international community to promote at all levels an integrated and multidimensional approach to the implementation of and follow-up to the Habitat Agenda;

12. *Reaffirms* that all States should exert concerted efforts to achieve the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, as well as through the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and that States may also convene bilateral, subregional and regional meetings and take other appropriate initiatives to contribute to the review and assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

13. *Also reaffirms* that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions, including Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, together with the Commission on Human Settlements, shall constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

14. *Recommends* that, at its special session to be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, the Assembly give due attention to the issue of human settlements in the context of sustainable development;

15. *Reaffirms* that the General Assembly should consider holding a special session in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including the identification of obstacles, considering further actions and initiatives, and that a decision on this matter should be taken at its fifty-second session;

16. *Also reaffirms* that the Economic and Social Council may convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on the critical issues pertaining to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, as well as on policies for addressing them through international cooperation, and in this context, the Council may consider dedicating one high-level segment before the year 2001 to human settlements and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, with the active involvement and participation of, *inter alia*, the specialized agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund;

17. *Emphasizes* that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with their respective mandates, should review and strengthen the mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements, taking into account the Habitat Agenda, as well as the need for synergy with related commissions and conference follow-ups and for a system-wide approach to its implementation;

18. *Requests* the Commission on Human Settlements at its forthcoming session, in 1997, to review its programme of work in order to ensure an effective implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the Conference, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of other relevant organs of the United Nations system, and make recommendations thereon to the Economic and Social Council within the framework of the review of the activities of its subsidiary bodies;

19. *Invites* the Secretary-General to undertake, in the light of the review of the mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements, a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements with a view to its revitalization, to present terms of reference and a preliminary report on this assessment for the consideration of the Commission at its sixteenth session and to make a final report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 229 of the Habitat Agenda and in consultation with the Commission on Human Settlements, to ensure more effective functioning of the Centre by, *inter alia*, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations;

21. *Requests* the Commission on Human Settlements to review, at its sixteenth session, its working methods in order to involve in its work the representatives of local authorities or international associations of local authorities, as appropriate, and the relevant actors of civil society, particularly the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in the field of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, taking into account the rules of procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements and the relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996;

22. *Decides* that the Commission on Human Settlements, as a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council, should have a central role in monitoring, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and advising the Council thereon;

23. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the overall review process of its subsidiary bodies, and within the context of the follow-up to resolution 50/227, should review the periodicity of the meetings of the

Commission on Human Settlements, taking into account the need for full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

24. *Reaffirms* that the Commission on Human Settlements, in developing its work programme, should examine the Habitat Agenda and consider how to integrate into its programme of work the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and should consider how it could further develop its catalytic role in promoting adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development;

25. *Also reaffirms* that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements shall be designated as a focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the mandates of the existing inter-agency task forces of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to facilitate an integrated and coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

27. *Acknowledges* the importance of the regional and subregional activities undertaken during the preparations for the Conference, including the regional strategies, plans and declarations adopted as part of the preparatory process, and invites the regional commissions, other regional and subregional organizations and the regional development banks to examine the results of the Conference within their respective mandates, with a view to identifying the actions to be taken at the regional and subregional levels for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

28. *Emphasizes* that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should, where appropriate, promote subregional and regional cooperation in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, that the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, could consider convening high-level meetings to review progress made in implementing the outcome of Habitat II, exchange views on their respective experiences, particularly on best practices, and adopt appropriate measures, that such meetings could involve, as appropriate, the participation of the principal financial and technical institutions, and that the regional commissions should report to the Council on the outcome of such meetings;

29. *Requests* all the relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to identify the specific actions that they will undertake, within their mandates, towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and in that context invites them to inform the Administrative Committee on Coordination of their actions and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997, on their specific plans and activities;

30. *Invites* the Bretton Woods institutions to be actively involved in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the Conference, and to enhance their cooperation with the United Nations system for that purpose;

31. *Reaffirms* that the demand for shelter and infrastructural services in human settlements is continuously increasing and that communities and countries, especially developing countries, have difficulty in mobilizing adequate financial resources to meet the rapidly rising costs of shelter, services and physical infrastructure, and reaffirms further that new and additional financial resources from various sources are necessary to achieve the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world and that existing resources available to developing countries - public, private, multilateral, bilateral, domestic and external - need to be enhanced through appropriate and flexible mechanisms and economic instruments to support adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements development;

32. *Stresses* that the full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in particular in all developing countries, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries, will require the mobilization of additional financial resources from various sources at the national and international levels and more effective development cooperation in order to promote assistance for shelter and human settlements activities;

33. *Invites* all Governments and the international community to consider the role of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in the follow-up to the Habitat Agenda and to consider the scope for providing further support for the Foundation in its activities, taking into account the need to continue to improve its effectiveness;

34. *Requests* the programmes and funds of the United Nations system and the regional commissions, consistent with their respective mandates, to support fully the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly at the field level, as appropriate;

35. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution;

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session a sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/178. First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 49/110 of 19 December 1994 and 50/107 of 20 December 1995 related to the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United

Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, and all other relevant resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recognizing that the international community, at the highest political level, has already reached a consensus on and committed itself to the eradication of poverty through declarations and programmes of action of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990, particularly the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Expressing serious concern that more than 1.3 billion people in the world, a majority of whom are women, live in absolute poverty, especially in developing countries, and that the number of such people continues to increase,

Welcoming the formulation of direct programmes of poverty eradication by some developing countries at the national level,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty[40] and on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development,[41]

Recognizing that investment in human capital and domestic and international policies supportive of economic and social development are essential prerequisites for the eradication of poverty,

Noting the activities to eradicate poverty carried out by countries, by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and by organizations, associations, institutions and entities of civil society, within the framework of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, and the coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the results of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 in the economic, social and related fields,

Noting also the action to be taken within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Recalling its resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995, in which it decided to hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development[42] and to consider further actions and initiatives, *inter alia*, towards the eradication of poverty in the world,

Taking note of the agreed conclusions on coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996,[43] as well as of the outcome of the sessions of relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 1996,

1. *Expresses its solidarity* with people living in poverty in all countries and reaffirms that the satisfaction of basic human needs is an essential element of poverty eradication, those needs being closely interrelated and comprising nutrition, health, water and sanitation, education, employment, housing and participation in cultural and social life;

2. *Also expresses its solidarity* with those suffering from a lack of control over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections, and calls for particular actions to provide appropriate social services to enable vulnerable people and people living in poverty to improve their lives, to exercise their rights and to participate fully in all social, economic and political activities and to contribute to social and economic development;

3. *Decides* that the theme for the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty shall be "Eradicating poverty is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind", and also decides to adopt the logo for the Decade as proposed in the report of the Secretary-General;[44]

4. *Recommends* that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and to the national and international framework conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, which should aim at the social and economic integration of people living in poverty and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development;

5. *Also recommends* that the causes of poverty be addressed in the context of sectoral strategies such as those on environment, food security, population, migration, health, shelter, human resources development, fresh water, including clean water and sanitation, rural development and productive employment, and by addressing the specific needs of vulnerable groups, all of which should aim at the social and economic integration of people living in poverty;

6. *Decides* that the themes for 1997 and 1998 shall be "Poverty, environment and development" and "Poverty, human rights and development", respectively; the themes for the remaining years of the Decade will be decided every two years, commencing in 1998, at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly;

7. *Also decides* that the objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation in implementing fully

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[40] A/51/443.

[41] A/51/348.

[42] See A/CONF.166/9.

[43] A/51/3 (Part I), chap. III, para. 2; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No 3*

[44] A/51/443, paras. 53 (*a*) and (*b*).

and effectively all agreements, commitments and recommendations of major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 as they relate to poverty eradication;

8. *Invites* all donors to give high priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance budgets and programmes, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, and also invites the relevant funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to support developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty and ensuring basic social services, by supporting national efforts to formulate, coordinate, implement, monitor and assess integrated poverty strategies, including capacity-building, and by supporting efforts to empower people living in poverty;

9. *Stresses* that international cooperation and assistance are essential to supporting the efforts of developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, to meet the goal of eradicating poverty, and stresses at the same time that, at the request of Governments, the United Nations system should provide technical assistance in further developing and sustaining national capacities to gather and analyse information and to develop indicators for poverty analysis;

10. *Calls upon* all Governments and the United Nations system, in particular the relevant funds, programmes and agencies, to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective and to use gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on poverty eradication;

11. *Stresses* that during the Decade and beyond, people living in poverty and their organizations should be empowered by being fully involved in the setting of targets and in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of national strategies, activities and programmes for poverty eradication and the development of community bases, ensuring that such programmes reflect their priorities;

12. *Encourages* developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, to mobilize domestic and external resources for poverty eradication activities and programmes and to facilitate their full and effective implementation;

13. *Recommends* that all Governments formulate or strengthen integrated poverty eradication strategies and policies and implement national poverty eradication plans or programmes, in a participatory manner, to address the structural causes of poverty, encompassing action on the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, and stresses that those plans or programmes should establish, within each national context, strategies and affordable time-bound goals and targets for the substantial reduction of overall poverty and the eradication of absolute poverty;

14. *Recognizes* the need to increase the share of funding for social development programmes, in particular basic social programmes, commensurate with the scope and scale of the activities required to achieve the objectives and goals set out in commitment 2 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[45] and chapter II of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[46] relating to the eradication of poverty;

15. *Reaffirms*, in this context, that developed countries should, as soon as possible, strive for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target, earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for the least developed countries;

16. *Also reaffirms* the agreement on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes, and notes with interest the consensus reached at Oslo on 25 April 1996 on this matter;

17. *Welcomes* the recent initiatives of the Bretton Woods institutions, including the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative, and the ongoing process at the international level regarding debt relief, as appropriate, for developing countries, and calls upon the international community, including international financial institutions, to implement fully and effectively all initiatives that will contribute to a durable solution of the debt problems of developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, and thus support their efforts to eradicate poverty;

18. *Reaffirms* that the international community, including multilateral financial institutions, should consider further measures to facilitate the access of developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, to international markets, in order to enable them to implement fully and effectively their national anti-poverty activities and programmes;

19. *Urges* the international community to reduce, as appropriate, excessive military expenditures on and investments in arms production and acquisition, consistent with national security requirements, in order to increase resources for social and economic development, in particular to poverty eradication programmes in developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries;

20. *Calls upon* all States, particularly donor countries, to contribute substantially to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, established under the authority of the Secretary-General, which includes in its activities support for activities related to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

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[45] A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[46] Ibid., annex II.

21. *Invites* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue, as a contribution, *inter alia*, to the Decade, the effort launched in 1996 with the Poverty Strategies Initiative, in order to strengthen assistance in the elaboration of national plans, programmes and strategies to eradicate poverty in developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, and calls upon all countries to contribute to the Initiative;

22. *Welcomes* the agreed conclusions on the coordination of United Nations system activities for poverty eradication, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996,[43] and calls for their full and effective implementation by organizations of the United Nations system;

23. *Notes with interest* the initiative to convene a micro-credit summit in Washington, D.C., from 2 to 4 February 1997, to focus on the importance of increasing access to micro-credit and related financial services for self-employment and income-generating activities for people living in poverty, in particular women in developing countries, and calls upon all Governments, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and the relevant actors of civil society to participate actively in the summit so as to contribute to its successful outcome and to support the development, implementation and management of micro-credit programmes in developing countries;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Secretariat entity entrusted with the task of system-wide promotion of and follow-up to activities and programmes of the Decade with adequate human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations to enable it to discharge fully and effectively its functions and responsibilities;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the reports to be prepared for the 1997 special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 give due attention to the issue of poverty eradication;

26. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the overall assessment of the implementation of the programme for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, taking into account progress being made in the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, including recommendations for possible actions and initiatives in relation to the Decade;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/179. Report of the World Commission on Culture and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/187 of 8 December 1986, in which it proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development,

Recalling also its resolution 46/158 of 19 December 1991, in which it requested the Secretary-General to cooperate with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in establishing an independent World Commission on Culture and Development, and expected the World Commission to submit its final report to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and to the United Nations General Assembly no later than three years after it began its work,

Noting that the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has sent the report of the Commission, entitled *Our Creative Diversity*,[47] to the member States of that organization for their comments, as well as to many non-governmental and academic bodies,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to stimulate further international debate on culture and development;

2. *Encourages* the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-ninth session in 1997 to discuss the report further, taking into account the views, comments and proposals submitted by member States;

3. *Also encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to pursue its ongoing task of promoting throughout the United Nations system a greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development, taking into account the diversity of cultures;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to compile a report on culture and development for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, taking into account the views, comments and proposals put forth by States and the relevant intergovernmental organizations concerning the report of the World Commission on Culture and Development.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

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[47] For a summary version of the report, see A/51/451, annex.

51/180. Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/188 of 22 December 1992, 48/191 of 21 December 1993, 49/234 of 23 December 1994 and 50/112 of 20 December 1995 related to the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

Recalling also the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[48]

Recalling further its resolution 50/114 of 20 December 1995, in which it recalled the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development set forth in chapter 12 of Agenda 21,[49] entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought",

Noting the ongoing work in preparation for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention undertaken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction that to date more than fifty countries have already ratified the Convention,

Recalling that, in accordance with article 22, paragraph 4, of the Convention,[48] the first session of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened by the interim secretariat of the Convention and shall take place not later than one year after the date of entry into force of the Convention,

Having considered the recommendations and decisions made by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its eighth and ninth sessions regarding the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[50]

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General[51] on the implementation of resolution 50/112 and on possible requirements for intergovernmental and secretariat work on the implementation of the Convention and its regional implementation annexes to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and Latin American and the Caribbean regions,

Considering that the Convention is one of the most important achievements in the implementation of and follow-up to the recommendations and decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992,

Taking into account the basic provisions of its resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that, in conformity with article 36, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the Convention will enter into force on 26 December 1996, and calls upon more countries to take appropriate action for the ratification, acceptance or approval of or accession to the Convention;

2. *Urges* the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, at its tenth session, to be held in New York from 6 to 17 January 1997, to aim at finalizing all the outstanding negotiating issues, including the negotiations of the two working groups and the plan for the preparatory work for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

3. *Recalls* the decision contained in paragraph 4 of its resolution 50/112 and, in this context, takes note of paragraph 3 of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee decision 9/5 of 13 September 1996;[52]

4. *Decides* that the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention shall be held from 29 September to 10 October 1997;

5. *Accepts with deep appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Italy to host in Rome, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

6. *Decides* to include the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1997-1998;

7. *Requests* the head of the interim secretariat to continue to promote cooperation and coordination with other relevant organizations and entities, particularly those of the United Nations system, in support of the regional implementation annexes, aimed, *inter alia*, at facilitating the efforts of affected developing country parties, particularly those in Africa, to fulfil their commitments under the Convention;

8. *Urges* all States, the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, and all other relevant organizations and actors, to take concrete actions and

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[48] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[49] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[50] See A/51/76 and Add.1.

[51] A/51/510.

[52] A/51/76/Add.1, annex, appendix II.

measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 of 17 June 1994 on urgent action for Africa,[53] as well as to promote actions for other affected developing countries and regions;

9. *Notes* the arrangements and contributions made by the Secretary-General and relevant organizations, funds and programmes active in the fields of desertification and drought;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made thus far to the Trust Fund established pursuant to resolution 47/188, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to continue to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund to support the interim secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the work of the Committee, and also for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties to support the secretariat of the Convention and the work of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Also notes with appreciation* the contributions made to the Special Voluntary Fund established pursuant to resolution 47/188 to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other organizations to continue to contribute generously to the Fund also for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties;

12. *Renews its appeal* to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as to non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to continue to make contributions to relevant United Nations bodies, in order to strengthen their capacity to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in all affected developing countries and regions, particularly in Africa;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, subject to the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, to consider:

(*a*) Authorizing the secretariat established pursuant to resolution 47/188 to act as secretariat for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the permanent secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating, which should not be later than 31 December 1998;

(*b*) Maintaining the arrangements within the current programme budget for the interim secretariat to support the Convention beyond the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the permanent secretariat designated by the Conference of the Parties begins operating, which should not be later than 31 December 1998, and maintaining the arrangements relating to extrabudgetary funds;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant institutions;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to it, at its fifty-second session, on the implementation of the present resolution and on any possible implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on its first session;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa".

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/181. Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene, not later than 1997, a special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21,[54]

Reaffirming its resolution 50/113 of 20 December 1995, as the agreed basis that determines the modalities for the preparations for the special session, including the relevant role of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council mandated to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as the role of other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system,

Strongly reaffirming that the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 will be undertaken on the basis of and in full respect of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[55]

Taking note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the 1997 special session,[56] and taking into account the views and concerns expressed by delegations to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session, the Economic and Social

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[53] See A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III, sect. A.

[54] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol.I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[55] Ibid., annex I.

[56] A/51/420.

Council at its substantive session of 1996 and the Second Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session,

1. *Decides* to convene the special session envisaged in its resolution 47/190 for a duration of one week, from 23 to 27 June 1997, at the highest political level of participation;

2. *Decides also* that the Commission on Sustainable Development will devote the forthcoming meeting of its Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group, to be held from 24 February to 7 March 1997, to preparing for the special session, and that the Commission will devote its fifth session, to be held from 7 to 25 April 1997 as a negotiating meeting, to final preparations for the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

3. *Recognizes* the important contributions made by major groups, including non-governmental organizations, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations, and the need for their effective participation in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the Conference, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the special session, and in that context invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for the effective involvement of major groups in the special session;

4. *Decides* to invite States members of the specialized agencies which are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

5. *Stresses* that there should be no attempt to renegotiate Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests[57] or other internationally recognized intergovernmental agreements in the field of environment and sustainable development, and that discussions at both the preparatory meetings and the special session should focus on the fulfilment of commitments and the further implementation of Agenda 21 and related post-Conference outcomes;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide all relevant reports called for in General Assembly resolution 50/113, including all other reports related to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, for consideration by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Sustainable Development and by the Commission at its fifth session, in accordance with the six-week rule and preferably not later than 15 January 1997;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that preparations for the comprehensive report are conducted in accordance with paragraph 13 (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) of Assembly resolution 50/113;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to include in the reports requested in Assembly resolution 50/113 for the preparation of the special session information on the application of the principles contained in the Rio Declaration, and invites the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to include in its report to the General Assembly at its special session information and views on ways to address, in a forward-looking manner, national, regional and international application of these principles and the implementation of Agenda 21 in the interrelated issues of environment and development;

9. *Decides* to consider at its special session, *inter alia*, the application of the principles of the Rio Declaration at all levels - national, regional and international - and to make relevant recommendations thereon;

10. *Requests* that other contributions to the special session, in addition to those identified in its resolution 50/113, include submissions from relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations, including the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Global Environmental Facility, information on the outcomes of United Nations conferences held since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, such as the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[58] regional and subregional conferences, summits and other inter-sessional meetings on sustainable development organized by countries, and information on the activities of relevant United Nations conventions on the environment and development and the global freshwater assessment, and that account be taken of the activities organized by major groups, including business and industry and non-governmental organizations;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the report on cross-sectoral issues of Agenda 21 for the special session, to give special consideration, without prejudice to other priority issues that may be identified in the preparatory process, to combating poverty and to health, financial resources and mechanisms, education, science, transfer of technology, consumption and production patterns, trade, environment and sustainable development, major groups, demographic dynamics, capacity-building and decision-making;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the reports for the special session, to give consideration, where appropriate and without prejudice to other priority issues that may be identified in the preparatory process, to linkages

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[57] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex III.

[58] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

between the cross-sectoral issues of Agenda 21 and relevant sectoral issues;

13. *Welcomes* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, and its relevance to the field of sustainable development, calls for effective interaction and exchange of information on work carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Human Settlements, and invites the Commission on Human Settlements to make a contribution to the special session in connection with the implementation of the Habitat Agenda[59] adopted in Istanbul;

14. *Invites* Governments and regional organizations to cooperate with the Secretary-General in preparing country profiles for review at the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as envisaged in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 50/113;

15. *Also invites* Governments to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, in participating fully in the special session and its preparatory process, and to make timely contributions to the Trust Fund for Support of the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the public information programme of the United Nations so as to raise global awareness in a balanced manner, in all countries, of both the special session and the work undertaken by the United Nations in the follow-up to the Conference, and invites all Governments to promote widespread dissemination, at all levels, of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and to make voluntary contributions to support the public outreach activities of the United Nations for the special session;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the sub-item entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a report on the special session.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/182. Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 49/117 of 19 December 1994 and 50/111 of 20 December 1995 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and 49/119 of 19 December 1994 on the International Day for Biological Diversity,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[60]

Recalling also Agenda 21,[61] particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

Recalling further the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity,[62]

Deeply concerned by the continued loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Emphasizing that the Convention is an important instrument for achieving sustainable development, taking into account its three objectives,

Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Argentina to host the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Buenos Aires from 4 to 15 November 1996,

Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Jakarta from 6 to 17 November 1995, as reflected in the report of the meeting,[63] submitted in accordance with resolution 50/111, and in that context reaffirms the need to take concrete action to fulfil the three objectives of the Convention, and takes note of the Jakarta Mandate on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity,[64] which proposes a framework for global action;

2. *Takes note* of the results of the second meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the seat of the secretariat of the Convention at Montreal, Canada, from 2 to 6 September 1996, and of the work carried out at the first meeting of the Open-

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[59] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[60] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[61] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[62] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12* (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (*i*).

[63] See A/51/312.

[64] Ibid., annex II, decision II/10.

ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, held at Aarhus, Denmark, from 22 to 26 July 1996;

3. *Encourages* those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so;

4. *Recognizes* that States Parties have agreed to provide financial resources for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 20, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention;

5. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to provide to the General Assembly at its special session in 1997, *inter alia*, information on experience gained under the Convention to date and on effective arrangements for the coordination of activities related to the objectives of the Convention;

6. *Welcomes* the work being carried out under the Convention to enhance cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions, and invites the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to take into account the outcome of the 1997 special session at its fourth meeting, when considering ways of promoting greater cooperation with the United Nations system and the international community in relation to activities relevant to the objectives of the Convention;

7. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and, pending the outcome of the 1997 special session, to report to the Assembly on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session a sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/183. Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/100 and 49/122 of 19 December 1994 and 50/116 of 20 December 1995, on or related to the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and reaffirming Commission on Sustainable Development decision 4/16[65] on the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[66]

Reaffirming that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans, and that small island developing States will be constrained in meeting such challenges and overcoming obstacles to sustainable development without the active support and cooperation of the international community,

Stressing the need for greater attention to priority areas of the Programme of Action, particularly climate change and sea-level rise, energy resources, tourism resources, biodiversity resources, transport and communications and science and technology,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[67] on action taken at the international, regional and national levels, *inter alia*, by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[66] and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. *Stresses* the importance of maintaining the Small Island Developing States Unit within the above-mentioned Department, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain the Unit at an appropriate level of staff and improve the structure and organization of the Unit, in accordance with resolution 49/122;

3. *Welcomes* the work being done by the regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

4. *Takes note* of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its ninth session, related to programme support for small island developing countries,[68] within the framework of the Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of resolution 49/122;

5. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to continue to implement fully all the commitments and recommendations that were made at the Global Conference, and to continue to take the necessary actions for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the technical assistance programme, known as SIDSTAP, and the information network for small island developing States, known as SIDSNET, in the overall implementation of the Programme of Action, takes note of the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing resolution

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[65] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 8* (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[66] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[67] A/51/354.

[68] See TD/378.

49/122, and requests the Programme, in cooperation with Governments, to continue its actions to implement fully all provisions in order to operationalize the two mechanisms;

7. *Takes note* of the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development to following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and invites the Commission at its fifth session to continue its support for and attention to the Programme of Action, as an integral part of the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 1997;

8. *Requests* that, in the context of the special session of the General Assembly, specific modalities be recommended for examining all outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action and for undertaking the full review of the Programme of Action in 1999;

9. *Welcomes* the inclusion of the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States as part of the work programme of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development for 1996-1997, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, other relevant United Nations organizations and non-United Nations organizations, to prepare a report based on the views of relevant experts on the vulnerability index, in 1997;

10. *Requests* the Committee for Development Planning, at its thirty-second session, to formulate its views and recommendations on the above-mentioned report, in order to submit those views to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, and to make this information available to the Commission on Sustainable Development;

11. *Requests* the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, in its coordinating role, to look into appropriate modalities for mobilizing resources for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and provide information thereon;

12. *Requests* closer collaboration and greater transparency between the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the United Nations Development Programme for effective implementation of SIDSTAP, and requests detailed information to be made available to Governments on actions taken to this effect;

13. *Welcomes* the report of the High-level Panel Meeting on Island Developing Countries[69] on the challenges faced by island developing countries, particularly in the area of external trade, considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Governments on the creation of an informal open-ended working group within the existing International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,[70] with the membership of all concerned States, including all relevant sectors in disaster reduction, with a view to ensuring full integration and participation of small island developing States in the mapping of a concerted strategy for disaster reduction into the twenty-first century and in improving access to disaster and warning information in order to enhance the capability of small island developing States with respect to disaster management;

15. *Stresses* that small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to global climate change and sea-level rise, and that the potential effects of global climate change and sea-level rise are increased strength and frequency of tropical storms and inundation of some islands, with loss of exclusive economic zones, economic infrastructure, human settlements and culture, and urges the international community to support small island developing States in their efforts to adapt to the sea-level rise that will be experienced as a result of the impact of greenhouse gases that have already been emitted into the atmosphere;

16. *Calls upon* the international community, including the Global Environment Facility, within the framework of its operational strategy, to support commercial energy development in small island developing States based on those environmentally sound renewable sources with demonstrated viability, to support improvement of the efficiency of existing technologies and end-use equipment based on conventional energy sources, and to assist with the financing of investments necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

17. *Also calls upon* the international community, where appropriate, to support the efforts of and to provide assistance to small island developing States with respect to improving and acquiring, through appropriate investment incentives and innovative measures, the means of maritime transport and development of infrastructure in small island developing States, such as airports, harbours, roads and telecommunications;

18. *Welcomes* actions at the national and regional levels by small island developing States, and invites all Governments, with the assistance of international and regional organizations, to provide information on all of their major activities under the Programme of Action so as to enable an adequate review of the actions taken at the national and regional levels;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the plans, programmes and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States that have been implemented in response to the Programme of Action, as well as those that are under implementation and those that are envisaged for implementation within five years of the date of the report;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the item entitled "Environment and

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[69] E/CN.17/1996/IDC/3-UNCTAD/LLDC/IDC/3.

[70] See resolution 44/236, annex.

sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a progress report on the particular actions taken to implement the present resolution.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/184. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/212 of 21 December 1990, 46/169 of 19 December 1991, 47/195 of 22 December 1992, 48/189 of 21 December 1993, 49/120 of 19 December 1994 and 50/115 of 20 December 1995,

Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[71] and inviting States that are not parties to take appropriate action to that end,

Welcoming the achievements of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held at Geneva from 8 to 19 July 1996, and noting that the Conference of the Parties at its second session adopted by consensus a series of substantive decisions,[72]

Recalling that at its second session the Conference of the Parties took note, without formal adoption, of the Geneva Ministerial Declaration[73] which received majority support among ministers and other heads of delegations attending the Conference, which, *inter alia,* called for acceleration of negotiations on the text of a legally binding protocol or another legal instrument to be completed in due time for adoption at the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

Taking note with appreciation of the scientific contribution to the convention process of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the World Meteorological Organization/United Nations Environment Programme, and also taking note of its second assessment report as the most comprehensive assessment available to date of the issues related to global climate change,

Concerned that changes in climate may result in significant and often adverse impacts on many ecological systems and socio-economic sectors, including food supply and water resources, and on human health, and noting that in some cases the impacts are potentially irreversible, and that developing countries and small island developing States are typically more vulnerable to climate change,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change and, in particular, to the successful conclusion of the Berlin Mandate[74] process at the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

Reiterating that a comprehensive approach should be adopted by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in the implementation of the Convention, including the full consideration of the particular situation of the developing countries as recognized by the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties at Kyoto from 1 to 12 December 1997,[75]

Noting that the relocation of the Convention secretariat to Bonn, Germany, is well under way, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Germany and the city of Bonn for the facilities and support they are providing to the secretariat,

Recalling its request to the Secretary-General, as put forth in paragraph 9 of resolution 50/115, to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene in that period, and noting that those arrangements should be made without prejudice to the outcome of the review referred to in paragraph 3 below,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/115,[76]

1. *Notes* the administrative arrangements regarding personnel and financial matters that have been established in the context of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the biennium 1996-1997;[77]

2. *Also notes* the arrangements made for the provision of conference services to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies for the biennium 1996-1997;[78]

3. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General, as set forth in paragraph 10 of resolution 50/115, to review the arrangements mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above towards the end of the biennium 1996-1997 and to report on the results of that review to the Assembly at its fifty-second session,

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[71] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[72] See FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1.

[73] Ibid., annex.

[74] FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1.

[75] FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1, decision 1/CP.2.

[76] A/51/484.

[77] Ibid., paras. 14-18.

[78] Ibid., para. 9.

taking into account evolving needs arising from the relocation to Bonn of the Convention secretariat;

4. *Notes with appreciation* contributions made to the extrabudgetary funds established under paragraphs 10 and 20 of resolution 45/212 and maintained in accordance with resolution 47/195, and calls upon Member States that are parties to the Convention to also contribute generously to the trust fund for participation in the Convention process, envisaged in paragraph 15 of its financial procedures, and to the trust funds envisaged for supplementary activities under the Convention;[79]

5. *Calls upon* Member States that are parties to the Convention to pay in full and in a timely manner for each of the years 1996 and 1997, in accordance with the indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties,[80] the contributions required for the trust fund for the core budget of the Convention, envisaged in paragraph 13 of its financial procedures, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

6. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and, pending the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly in 1997, to report on the results of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" and to consider at that session the reviews requested in paragraph 10 of resolution 50/115.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/185. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994 and 50/117 A and B of 20 December 1995, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/45 of 26 July 1996,

Expressing its solidarity with the people and countries that suffer as a result of natural disasters and expressing also the deepest sympathy to all victims of the natural disasters that have struck in various parts of the globe,

Emphasizing once again the urgent need for concrete measures to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, the loss of human lives and the heavy physical and economic damage that occur as a result of natural disasters, in particular in developing countries, small island developing States and landlocked countries,

Commending those countries, national and local institutions, organizations and associations that have adopted policies, allocated resources and initiated action programmes, including international assistance, for disaster reduction and, in this context, welcoming the participation of private companies and individuals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[81]

2. *Reaffirms* that disaster reduction forms an integral part of sustainable development strategies and national development plans of vulnerable countries and communities;

3. *Calls upon* all States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to participate actively in the financial and technical support for Decade activities, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade,[82] in particular with a view to translating the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and the Plan of Action contained therein[83] into concrete disaster reduction programmes and activities;

4. *Commends* all countries, in particular those developing and least developed countries, that have mobilized domestic resources for disaster reduction activities and have facilitated the effective implementation of such activities, and encourages all developing countries concerned to continue in this direction;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to support the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action with particular regard to improving education and training in disaster reduction, including the creation of interdisciplinary and technical networking at all levels, for the purpose of capacity-building and human resources development in developing countries, in particular those that are prone to natural disasters, as well as least developed, small island developing and landlocked countries;

6. *Welcomes* the initiatives aimed at defining regional frameworks for disaster mitigation, such as the regional seminars held in Africa and the Mediterranean;

7. *Stresses* the need for synergy between the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[84] and that of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action as they relate to natural disaster reduction;

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[79] FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 15/CP.1, annex I, and decision 18/CP.1.

[80] Ibid., decision 15/CP.1, annex II.

[81] A/51/186-E/1996/80.

[82] See resolution 44/236, annex.

[83] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[84] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

8. *Underlines* the need for the United Nations system to ensure the integration of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action into the coordinated approach taken to the follow-up to all recent major United Nations conferences and summit meetings and to the implementation of their respective plans of action;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in particular, to facilitate, within the existing International Framework of Action for the Decade, an internationally concerted framework for improvements in early warning by developing a concrete proposal for an effective international mechanism on early warning, to include the transfer of technologies related to early warning to developing countries, under the auspices of the United Nations and as part of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade and the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action;

10. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the Decade to continue to facilitate a concerted international approach to improvements in early warning capacities for natural disasters and similar disasters with adverse impact on the environment within the process leading towards the closing event of the Decade;

11. *Recommends* that adequate consideration be given to the International Framework of Action for the Decade as part of the evaluation and overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21[85] in 1997;

12. *Reaffirms* that the secretariat of the Decade will continue to serve as the substantive secretariat for the preparation of the closing event of the Decade, working with the full support of relevant bodies of the United Nations Secretariat and drawing on the contributions of the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, other international organizations and Governments;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to appeal for additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Decade;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring forward, as a first step in the process leading towards the closing event of the Decade and in order to begin the preparatory process in 1998, proposals arising from consultation with interested parties, and to set forth in his substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session proposals regarding the format, substance and timing of the event, also taking into account, *inter alia*, the need to review relationships and responsibilities relevant to natural disaster reduction with respect to the future and the performance capability of the secretariat of the Decade.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/186. Progress at mid-decade on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/217 of 21 December 1990 and 50/120 of 20 December 1995 and its decisions 47/447 of 22 December 1992, 48/446 of 21 December 1993 and 49/439 of 19 December 1994,

Noting with appreciation the near universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[86] and the significant progress made in national capacities to plan, implement and monitor progress for children within the framework of the needs and rights of the child,

Recognizing the linkage between the eradication of poverty and the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[87] and welcomes the conclusions contained therein;

2. *Welcomes* the significant progress reported by most countries on achieving the majority of the mid-decade goals and objectives of the World Summit for Children, particularly in immunization, the control of diarrhoeal diseases, poliomyelitis, Guinea worm and iodine deficiency disorders, and access to safe water;

3. *Also welcomes* the overwhelming response of all countries, especially the developing countries, to the commitments agreed upon at the World Summit for Children;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of international and bilateral donors and civil society to the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children;

5. *Takes note with concern* of the considerable variation in the progress made across countries and regions owing to different baseline conditions in 1990 and the varying rates of progress in relation to the goals;

6. *Expresses particular concern* that progress on malnutrition, maternal mortality, sanitation, and girls' education has been inadequate, and in some cases negligible;

7. *Reaffirms* the need for effective follow-up to the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s;[88]

8. *Recognizes* the need for more intensive efforts to reach the goals for child mortality, the education of children, in particular girl children, maternal mortality, child malnutrition and sanitation;

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[85] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[86] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[87] A/51/256.

[88] A/45/625, annex.

9. *Also recognizes* the important role of the United Nations system in providing coordinated support for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action and the leadership role of the United Nations Children's Fund;

10. *Invites* Governments to increase, as appropriate, their budget allocations to basic social services for covering the special needs of children in order to facilitate the achievement of the goals set out in the World Declaration and the Plan of Action;

11. *Urges* developed countries to make increased efforts to mobilize additional resources for the fulfilment of the goals and objectives of the World Summit for Children and to ensure, in the context of their development assistance, that programmes to that end will have a priority when resources are allocated;

12. *Encourages* civil society and the private sector to continue to support generously the implementation of the goals of the World Summit for Children;

13. *Stresses* the need for according priority to the special needs of children in regions of slow progress, particularly the least developed countries and sub-Saharan Africa, and in other developing countries that have not yet reached the mid-decade goals;

14. *Recognizes* the need for continued cooperation and partnership and appropriate international support to those developing countries that have already reached the mid-decade goals or the end-of-decade goals, so as to ensure the sustainability of such achievements;

15. *Also recognizes* the contribution to the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children of the mutual commitment of interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of national budgets to basic social programmes;

16. *Stresses* the need to continue strengthening and expanding effective partnerships between Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, international donor agencies, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, so as to ensure full achievement of the goals by the year 2000;

17. *Also stresses* the need for greater efforts to involve children themselves, in accordance with article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in all matters affecting them;

18. *Further stresses* the need for sustainable progress in the attainment of goals through, *inter alia*, support for national capacity-building, including that of local communities, civil society and non-governmental organizations;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of fostering exchanges of experience between countries, including South-South cooperation, in order to help disseminate successful programmes;

20. *Calls upon* all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the lessons learned at mid-decade, and invites relevant governing bodies to consider specific measures, within their respective competencies, to address the special needs of children for the achievement of the goals for the year 2000, giving priority to issues and areas where progress has been slow;

21. *Also calls upon* all relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen inter-agency collaboration regarding improved protection and assistance for children in especially difficult circumstances, including displaced and refugee children, as well as those suffering from exploitation, and to take the necessary steps to ensure that such collaboration is considered in related policies and programmes;

22. *Stresses* the necessity and importance of setting measurable indicators and targets and of improving data collection and assessment concerning the implementation of all the goals of the World Summit for Children with regard to the development, protection and survival of children, including the goal of improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances;

23. *Calls upon* Governments and their partners, taking into account lessons learned during the mid-decade reviews, to adjust, refine and prioritize, where necessary, their goals and strategies, within the framework of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action and in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to respond to local situations;

24. *Also calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the implementation of the goals of the World Summit for Children;

25. *Urges* full integration of the follow-up to the goals of the World Summit for Children into the work of the inter-agency task forces and other mechanisms established to ensure a coordinated and effective follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

26. *Urges once again* all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a matter of priority, with a view to reaching the goal of universal adherence established by the World Summit for Children;

27. *Decides* to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 2001 to review the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children, and to consider the arrangements for the special session at its fifty-third session;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its special session a review of the implementation and results of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action, including appropriate recommendations for further action;

29. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the preparations

for the special session and on progress on the implementation of the present resolution.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/187. United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University[89] and the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the University,[90]

Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made to date by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in intensifying his interaction with the United Nations Secretariat in the context of preparing for the third medium-term perspective,

Noting also with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector in initiating a new series of research programmes,

1. *Welcomes* the completion of the second medium-term perspective, 1990-1995, of the United Nations University and the ongoing work of formulating the third medium-term perspective for the period 1996-2001, being considered by the Council of the University;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the steps taken by the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to promote the work and the visibility of the University, particularly among Member States, the United Nations and its agencies, through such measures as organizing a series of public forums for the purpose of disseminating the results of its research, and requests them to further intensify such efforts;

3. *Requests* the Council and the Rector to continue intensifying their efforts to improve the University's interaction and communication with other bodies of the United Nations system, and to continue their efforts to avoid the duplication of work within the system;

4. *Also requests* the Council and the Rector to enhance further coordination and complementarity between the University's programmes and its research and training centres;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this connection, to continue his consideration of innovative measures to improve the interaction and communication between the University and other bodies of the United Nations system and to ensure the integration of the work of the University into all relevant activities of the system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 49/124 of 19 December 1994, so that the United Nations system may draw more extensively upon the work of the University, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to allow for the greater participation of the University in the work of the United Nations, and invites him to continue to encourage the participation, as appropriate, of the University in the activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery, as well as through other existing structures and modalities for communication, interaction and integration;

7. *Requests* the Council and the Rector, taking into account resolution 49/124, to continue to make further efforts to ensure the efficiency and economy of the activities of the University, as well as its financial transparency and accountability, and to intensify efforts to augment its Endowment Fund and to find innovative ways to mobilize operating contributions and other programme and project support;

8. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/188. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/227 of 8 April 1993, 48/207 of 21 December 1993, 49/125 of 19 December 1994 and 50/121 of 20 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[91] the report of the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the activities of the Institute[92] and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[93]

Noting with interest the steps being taken to complete the restructuring process of the Institute, and welcoming the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Welcoming the opening of the Institute's liaison office in New York following the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of the Institute and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

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[89] A/51/31; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 31*.

[90] A/51/324.

[91] A/51/554.

[92] A/51/14 (Parts I and II); see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 14*.

[93] See A/51/642 and Add.1.

Reiterating that the funding of training programmes offered at the specific request of Member States or departments and units of the Organization and other organs of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies should be arranged by the requesting parties,

Recognizing that training activities should be accorded a larger and more visible role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, particularly in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of all Member States, and the pertinence of research activities related to training undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

2. *Invites* the Institute to strengthen its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

3. *Requests* that relevant measures be taken by the Board of Trustees of the Institute with respect to the regularization of the post of Executive Director of the Institute;

4. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in the light of the progress made in the restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the relocation of the Institute,[93] and the subsequent decision of the Board of Trustees of the Institute to postpone any decision on the possibility of relocating the Institute;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore in consultation with the Executive Director of the Institute, as well as with the heads of United Nations programmes and funds, ways and modalities of cooperation, in order to better define the role of the Institute in the fields of training, research and methodology, assessment and capacity-building within the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

7. *Requests* the Joint Inspection Unit, in close cooperation with the Institute and relevant United Nations bodies, to prepare a study, as recommended by the Unit in its report,[94] on the training institution programmes and activities of the United Nations system, and to submit a report thereon for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/189. Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant provisions of Agenda 21,[95] in particular chapters 17, 33, 34, 38 and other related chapters, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[96]

Recalling also its resolution 50/110 of 20 December 1995 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which it endorsed, *inter alia*, Governing Council decision 18/31 on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities,

Noting the successful conclusion of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which was held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995,

Having considered the Washington Declaration on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities[97] and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[98] as well as the proposal of the United Nations Environment Programme on institutional arrangements and implementation of the Global Programme of Action and relevant recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

1. *Endorses* the Washington Declaration on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

2. *Stresses* the need for States to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the national and, as appropriate, the regional and international levels;

3. *Also stresses* the need for States to take action for the formal endorsement by each competent international organization of those parts of the Global Programme of Action that are relevant to their mandates and to accord appropriate priority to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the work programme of each organization;

4. *Further stresses* the need for States to take such action at the next meetings of the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations

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[94] A/51/642, para. 66.

[95] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[96] Ibid., annex I.

[97] A/51/116, annex I, appendix II.

[98] Ibid., annex II.

Development Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the relevant bodies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as in other competent international and regional organizations within and outside the United Nations system;

5. *Further stresses* the need for international cooperation, as outlined in sections IV A and B of the Global Programme of Action, in capacity-building, technology transfer and cooperation, and the mobilization of financial resources, including support, in particular for developing countries, especially the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States, and to this end calls upon bilateral donors and international, regional and subregional financial institutions and mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility, and other competent development and financial institutions:

(*a*) To ensure that their programmes give appropriate priority for country-driven projects aimed at the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

(*b*) To assist with capacity-building in the preparation and implementation of national programmes and in identifying ways and means of funding them;

(*c*) To improve their coordination so as to enhance the delivery of financial and other support;

6. *Invites* non-governmental organizations and major groups to initiate and strengthen their actions to facilitate and support the effective implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare, for the consideration of the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, specific proposals on:

(*a*) The role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, including the relevant role of its Regional Seas Programme and Freshwater Unit;

(*b*) Arrangements for secretariat support to the Global Programme of Action;

(*c*) Modalities for periodic intergovernmental review of progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme, within its available resources, and with the aid of voluntary contributions from States for this purpose, to take expeditious action to provide for the establishment and implementation of the clearing-house mechanism referred to in the Global Programme of Action, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare and submit to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session specific proposals on, *inter alia*:

(*a*) The establishment of an inter-organizational group to develop the basic design and structure of the clearing-house data directory and its linkages to information delivery mechanisms;

(*b*) The means of linking the inter-organizational group to ongoing work within the United Nations system on the identification of and access to relevant databases and the comparability of data;

(*c*) The outline of a pilot project on the development of the clearing-house's source category component on sewage, to be implemented in partnership with the World Health Organization;

9. *Calls upon* States, in relation to the clearing-house mechanism, to take action in the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and programmes so as to ensure that those organizations and programmes take the lead in coordinating the development of the clearing-house mechanism with respect to the following source categories, which are listed in conjunction with the relevant organization(s) or programme(s) but not in order of priority:

(*a*) Sewage - World Health Organization;

(*b*) Persistent organic pollutants - Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the International Programme on Chemical Safety and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety;

(*c*) Heavy metals - United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

(*d*) Radioactive substances - International Atomic Energy Agency;

(*e*) Nutrients and sediment mobilization - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(*f*) Oils (hydrocarbons) and litter - International Maritime Organization;

(*g*) Physical alterations, including habitat modification and destruction of areas of concern - United Nations Environment Programme;

10. *Decides* to determine, at its special session to be held in June 1997 in accordance with its resolution 50/113 of 20 December 1995, specific arrangements for integrating the outcomes of periodic intergovernmental reviews, as envisaged in paragraph 7 (*c*) above, in the future work of the Commission on Sustainable Development related to the monitoring of the implementation of and follow-up to Agenda 21, in particular chapter 17.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/190. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/40 of 26 July 1996,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of people under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[99] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Expressing concern at the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Aware of the additional, detrimental economic and social impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources,

Welcoming the ongoing Middle East peace process which was started at Madrid on 30 October 1991 and which is based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and the principle of land for peace, in particular the two implementation agreements embodied in the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area of 4 May 1994[100] and the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of 28 September 1995,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[101]

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land and water;

3. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, to cause loss and depletion of or to endanger the natural resources in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

4. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, loss or depletion of, or danger to, their natural resources, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with in the framework of the final status negotiation between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it, at its fifty-second session, on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources".

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/191. United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3514 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which it, *inter alia*, condemned all corrupt practices, including bribery, in international commercial transactions, reaffirmed the right of any State to adopt legislation and to investigate and take appropriate legal action, in accordance with its national laws and regulations, against such corrupt practices, and called upon all Governments to cooperate to prevent corrupt practices, including bribery,

Recalling also the further work carried out by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the issue of illicit payments and on elaborating a code of conduct on transnational corporations,[102] consideration of which helped call attention to and raise international awareness of the adverse consequences of bribery in international commercial transactions,

Recalling further its resolution 50/106 of 20 December 1995, in which it recommended that the Economic and Social Council consider the draft international agreement on illicit payments at its substantive session of 1996 and report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session,

Welcoming the steps taken at the national, regional and international levels to fight corruption and bribery, as well as recent developments in international forums that have further advanced international understanding and cooperation regarding corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions,

Noting the adoption in March 1996, by States members of the Organization of American States, of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption,[103] which includes an article on transnational bribery,

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[99] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[100] A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1994*, document S/1994/727.

[101] A/51/135-E/1996/51.

[102] E/1991/31/Add.1.

[103] See E/1996/99.

Noting also significant continuing work relevant to and consistent with the objectives of the present resolution in other regional and international forums, such as the continuing work of the Council of Europe and the European Union to combat international bribery, as well as the commitment by the States members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development[104] to criminalize bribery of foreign public officials in international commercial transactions in an effective and coordinated manner and further examine the modalities and appropriate international instruments to facilitate criminalization, and to re-examine the tax deductibility of such bribes with the intention of denying such tax deductibility in the member States that do not already do so,

1. *Adopts* the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Notes* the work being undertaken by the United Nations and in other international and regional forums to address the problem of corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions, and invites all States concerned to pursue the completion of such work;

3. *Invites* Member States, in accordance with the Declaration, to take appropriate measures and cooperate at all levels to combat corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions;

4. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice:

(*a*) To examine ways, including through legally binding international instruments, without in any way precluding, impeding or delaying international, regional or national actions, to further the implementation of the present resolution and the annexed Declaration, so as to promote the criminalization of corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions;

(*b*) To keep the issue of corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions under regular review;

(*c*) To promote the effective implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Invites* other bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, whose competence extends to this matter, to take action as appropriate within their mandates to promote the objectives of the present resolution and the Declaration;

6. *Encourages* private and public corporations, including transnational corporations, and individuals engaged in international commercial transactions to cooperate in the effective implementation of the Declaration;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform Member States, the relevant bodies and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and international, regional and non-governmental organizations, of the adoption of the present resolution, to encourage action towards making its provisions widely known and to promote its effective implementation;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, on the progress made towards implementation of the present resolution and the steps taken by Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant institutions to combat corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions, on the results of the work in this regard undertaken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and other bodies of the United Nations system; and on measures taken in accordance with the present resolution to promote social responsibility and the elimination of corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions;

9. *Invites* Member States and competent international, regional and non-governmental organizations to provide relevant information to assist the Secretary-General in preparing the above-mentioned report;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under an item entitled "Business and development", a review of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of the present resolution.

86th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

ANNEX

United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions

The General Assembly,

Convinced that a stable and transparent environment for international commercial transactions in all countries is essential for the mobilization of investment, finance, technology, skills and other important resources across national borders, in order, *inter alia*, to promote economic and social development and environmental protection,

Recognizing the need to promote social responsibility and appropriate standards of ethics on the part of private and public corporations, including transnational corporations, and individuals engaged in international commercial transactions, *inter alia*, through observance of the laws and regulations of the countries in which they conduct business, and taking into account the impact of their activities on economic and social development and environmental protection,

Recognizing also that effective efforts at all levels to combat and avoid corruption and bribery in all countries are essential elements of an improved international business environment, that they enhance fairness and competitiveness in international commercial transactions and form a critical part of promoting transparent and accountable governance, economic and social development and environmental protection in all countries, and that such efforts are especially pressing in the increasingly competitive globalized international economy,

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[104] See E/1996/106.

Solemnly proclaims the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions as set out below.

Member States, individually and through international and regional organizations, taking actions subject to each State's own constitution and fundamental legal principles and adopted pursuant to national laws and procedures, commit themselves:

1. To take effective and concrete action to combat all forms of corruption, bribery and related illicit practices in international commercial transactions, in particular to pursue effective enforcement of existing laws prohibiting bribery in international commercial transactions, to encourage the adoption of laws for those purposes where they do not exist, and to call upon private and public corporations, including transnational corporations, and individuals within their jurisdiction engaged in international commercial transactions to promote the objectives of the present Declaration;

2. To criminalize such bribery of foreign public officials in an effective and coordinated manner, but without in any way precluding, impeding or delaying international, regional or national actions to further the implementation of the present Declaration;

3. Bribery may include, *inter alia*, the following elements:

(*a*) The offer, promise or giving of any payment, gift or other advantage, directly or indirectly, by any private or public corporation, including a transnational corporation, or individual from a State to any public official or elected representative of another country as undue consideration for performing or refraining from the performance of that official's or representative's duties in connection with an international commercial transaction;

(*b*) The soliciting, demanding, accepting or receiving, directly or indirectly, by any public official or elected representative of a State from any private or public corporation, including a transnational corporation, or individual from another country of any payment, gift or other advantage, as undue consideration for performing or refraining from the performance of that official's or representative's duties in connection with an international commercial transaction;

4. To deny, in countries that do not already do so, the tax deductibility of bribes paid by any private or public corporation or individual of a State to any public official or elected representative of another country and, to that end, to examine their respective modalities for doing so;

5. To develop or maintain accounting standards and practices that improve the transparency of international commercial transactions, and that encourage private and public corporations, including transnational corporations, and individuals engaged in international commercial transactions to avoid and combat corruption, bribery and related illicit practices;

6. To develop or to encourage the development, as appropriate, of business codes, standards or best practices that prohibit corruption, bribery and related illicit practices in international commercial transactions;

7. To examine establishing illicit enrichment by public officials or elected representatives as an offence;

8. To cooperate and afford one another the greatest possible assistance in connection with criminal investigations and other legal proceedings brought in respect of corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions. Mutual assistance shall include, as far as permitted under national laws or as provided for in bilateral treaties or other applicable arrangements of the affected countries, and taking into account the need for confidentiality as appropriate:

(*a*) Production of documents and other information, taking of evidence and service of documents relevant to criminal investigations and other legal proceedings;

(*b*) Notice of the initiation and outcome of criminal proceedings concerning bribery in international commercial transactions to other States that may have jurisdiction over the same offence;

(*c*) Extradition proceedings where and as appropriate;

9. To take appropriate action to enhance cooperation to facilitate access to documents and records about transactions and about identities of persons engaged in bribery in international commercial transactions;

10. To ensure that bank secrecy provisions do not impede or hinder criminal investigations or other legal proceedings relating to corruption, bribery or related illicit practices in international commercial transactions, and that full cooperation is extended to Governments that seek information on such transactions;

11. Actions taken in furtherance of the present Declaration shall respect fully the national sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction of Member States, as well as the rights and obligations of Member States under existing treaties and international law, and shall be consistent with human rights and fundamental freedoms;

12. Member States agree that actions taken by them to establish jurisdiction over acts of bribery of foreign public officials in international commercial transactions shall be consistent with the principles of international law regarding the extraterritorial application of a State's laws.

V. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

CONTENTS

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/58	The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends	182
51/59	Action against corruption	182
51/60	United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security	184
51/61	United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	186
51/62	Measures for prevention of the smuggling of aliens	186
51/63	Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity	187
51/64	International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking	189
51/65	Violence against women migrant workers	194
51/66	Traffic in women and girls	195
51/67	Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat	197
51/68	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	198
51/69	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	199
51/70	Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States	203
51/71	Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa	205
51/72	Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	206
51/73	Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors	206
51/74	New international humanitarian order	207
51/75	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	208
51/76	The girl child	210
51/77	The rights of the child	212
51/78	International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	218
51/79	Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	220
51/80	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	221
51/81	Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	222
51/82	The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination	225
51/83	Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	225

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/84	Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	226
51/85	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	227
51/86	Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	228
51/87	Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights	229
51/88	Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	231
51/89	Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification	232
51/90	Strengthening of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights	233
51/91	Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities	234
51/92	Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	235
51/93	Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance	236
51/94	Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances	238
51/95	Follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance	239
51/96	Strengthening of the rule of law	240
51/97	Human rights and extreme poverty	241
51/98	Situation of human rights in Cambodia	242
51/99	Right to development	244
51/100	Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights	246
51/101	Culture of peace	247
51/102	Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights	247
51/103	Human rights and unilateral coercive measures	249
51/104	United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and public information activities in the field of human rights	250
51/105	Strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity	251
51/106	Situation of human rights in Iraq	253
51/107	Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	254
51/108	Situation of human rights in Afghanistan	256
51/109	Situation of human rights in Nigeria	257
51/110	Human rights in Haiti	258
51/111	Situation of human rights in Kosovo	259

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/112	Situation of human rights in the Sudan	260
51/113	Situation of human rights in Cuba	263
51/114	Situation of human rights in Rwanda	263
51/115	Rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia	266
51/116	Situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)	267
51/117	Situation of human rights in Myanmar	271
51/118	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action	273
51/119	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	274
51/120	Question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime	275

51/58. The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992 and 49/155 of 23 December 1994,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends,[1]

Recognizing that cooperatives in their various forms are becoming a major factor of economic and social development by promoting the fullest possible participation in the development process of women and all population groups, including youth, older persons and people with disabilities, and are increasingly providing an effective and affordable mechanism for meeting people's needs for basic social services,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[2] the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,[3] and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996,[4]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends;

2. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) by, *inter alia*:

(*a*) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(*b*) Encouraging and facilitating the development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

3. *Encourages* Governments to keep under review the legal and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives with a view to ensuring a supportive environment for cooperatives, so that they can make an appropriate contribution to the attainment of the goals of national development, including that of meeting the basic human needs of all;

4. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe annually the International Day of Cooperatives on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to continue to support the goals and objectives of the cooperative movement and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Commission on Social Development, a report containing, *inter alia*, information on legislative and administrative initiatives taken by countries, bearing in mind possible measures to improve the reporting procedure;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ascertain, in cooperation with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, the desirability and feasibility of elaborating United Nations guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives and to include his findings and recommendations in his report referred to in paragraph 5 above.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/59. Action against corruption

The General Assembly,

Concerned at the seriousness of problems posed by corruption, which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development,

Also concerned about the links between corruption and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime, including money-laundering,

Convinced that, since corruption is a phenomenon that currently crosses national borders and affects all societies and economies, international cooperation to prevent and control it is essential,

Convinced also of the need to provide, upon request, technical assistance designed to improve public management systems and to enhance accountability and transparency,

Recalling the Inter-American Convention against Corruption,[5] adopted by the Organization of American States at the Specialized Conference for Consideration of the Draft Inter-American Convention against Corruption, held at Caracas from 27 to 29 March 1996,

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[1] A/51/267.

[2] See A/CONF.166/9.

[3] See A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.

[4] See A/CONF.165/14.

[5] See E/1996/99.

Recalling also its resolutions 45/121 of 14 December 1990 and 46/152 of 18 December 1991, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/22 of 30 July 1992, 1993/32 of 27 July 1993 and 1994/19 of 25 July 1994,

Recalling in particular its resolution 50/225 of 19 April 1996, adopted at its resumed session, on public administration and development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/14 of 24 July 1995 on action against corruption,

Recalling also the work carried out by other international and regional organizations in this field, including the activities of the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Organization of American States,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on action against corruption[6] submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fifth session;

2. *Adopts* the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials annexed to the present resolution, and recommends it to Member States as a tool to guide their efforts against corruption;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to distribute the International Code of Conduct to all States and to include it in the manual on practical measures against corruption,[7] to be revised and expanded pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/14, with a view to offering both those tools to States in the context of advisory services, training and other technical assistance activities;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to collect information and legislative and regulatory texts from States and relevant intergovernmental organizations, in the context of his continuing study of the problem of corruption;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with States, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as in cooperation with the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to elaborate an implementation plan and submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixth session, in conjunction with his report to be submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/14;

6. *Urges* States, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to extend to the Secretary-General their full support in elaborating the implementation plan and in implementing paragraph 4 above;

7. *Urges* Member States carefully to consider the problems posed by the international aspects of corrupt practices, especially as regards international economic activities carried out by corporate entities, and to study appropriate legislative and regulatory measures to ensure the transparency and integrity of financial systems and transactions carried out by such corporate entities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to closely cooperate with other entities of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and to more effectively coordinate activities undertaken in this area;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to provide increased advisory services and technical assistance to Member States, at their request, in particular in the elaboration of national strategies, the elaboration or improvement of legislative and regulatory measures, the establishment or strengthening of national capacities to prevent and control corruption, as well as in training and upgrading skills of relevant personnel;

10. *Calls upon* States, relevant international organizations and financing institutions to extend to the Secretary-General their full support and assistance in the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to keep the issue of action against corruption under regular review.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

ANNEX

International Code of Conduct for Public Officials

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. A public office, as defined by national law, is a position of trust, implying a duty to act in the public interest. Therefore, the ultimate loyalty of public officials shall be to the public interests of their country as expressed through the democratic institutions of government.

2. Public officials shall ensure that they perform their duties and functions efficiently, effectively and with integrity, in accordance with laws or administrative policies. They shall at all times seek to ensure that public resources for which they are responsible are administered in the most effective and efficient manner.

3. Public officials shall be attentive, fair and impartial in the performance of their functions and, in particular, in their relations with the public. They shall at no time afford any undue preferential treatment to any group or individual or improperly discriminate against any group or individual, or otherwise abuse the power and authority vested in them.

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[6] E/CN.15/1996/5.

[7] *International Review of Criminal Policy*, Nos. 41 and 42 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.IV.4).

II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND DISQUALIFICATION

4. Public officials shall not use their official authority for the improper advancement of their own or their family's personal or financial interest. They shall not engage in any transaction, acquire any position or function or have any financial, commercial or other comparable interest that is incompatible with their office, functions and duties or the discharge thereof.

5. Public officials, to the extent required by their position, shall, in accordance with laws or administrative policies, declare business, commercial and financial interests or activities undertaken for financial gain that may raise a possible conflict of interest. In situations of possible or perceived conflict of interest between the duties and private interests of public officials, they shall comply with the measures established to reduce or eliminate such conflict of interest.

6. Public officials shall at no time improperly use public moneys, property, services or information that is acquired in the performance of, or as a result of, their official duties for activities not related to their official work.

7. Public officials shall comply with measures established by law or by administrative policies in order that after leaving their official positions they will not take improper advantage of their previous office.

III. DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS

8. Public officials shall, in accord with their position and as permitted or required by law and administrative policies, comply with requirements to declare or to disclose personal assets and liabilities, as well as, if possible, those of their spouses and/or dependants.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS OR OTHER FAVOURS

9. Public officials shall not solicit or receive directly or indirectly any gift or other favour that may influence the exercise of their functions, the performance of their duties or their judgement.

V. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

10. Matters of a confidential nature in the possession of public officials shall be kept confidential unless national legislation, the performance of duty or the needs of justice strictly require otherwise. Such restrictions shall also apply after separation from service.

VI. POLITICAL ACTIVITY

11. The political or other activity of public officials outside the scope of their office shall, in accordance with laws and administrative policies, not be such as to impair public confidence in the impartial performance of their functions and duties.

51/60. United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the adoption of a declaration on crime and public security will contribute to the enhancement of the struggle against serious transnational crime,

1. *Approves* the United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration, to take all appropriate measures at the national and international levels to combat serious transnational crime;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to inform all States and the relevant specialized agencies and organizations of the adoption of the Declaration;

4. *Urges* Member States to make every effort to ensure that the Declaration becomes generally known and is observed and implemented in full in accordance with their respective national legislation;

5. *Invites* Member States to promote public campaigns, including the use of mass media, that stimulate public awareness of and participation in the process of crime prevention and promotion of public security.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

ANNEX

United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[8] the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism[9] and the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime,[10]

Solemnly proclaims the following United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security:

Article 1

Member States shall seek to protect the security and well-being of their citizens and all persons within their jurisdiction by taking effective national measures to combat serious transnational crime, including organized crime, illicit drug and arms trafficking, smuggling of other illicit articles, organized trafficking in persons, terrorist crimes and the laundering of proceeds from serious crimes, and shall pledge their mutual cooperation in those efforts.

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[8] Resolution 50/6.

[9] Resolution 49/60, annex.

[10] See resolution 49/159.

Article 2

Member States shall promote bilateral, regional, multilateral and global law enforcement cooperation and assistance, including, as appropriate, mutual legal assistance arrangements, to facilitate the detection, apprehension and prosecution of those who commit or are otherwise responsible for serious transnational crimes and to ensure that law enforcement and other competent authorities can cooperate effectively on an international basis.

Article 3

Member States shall take measures to prevent support for and operations of criminal organizations in their national territories. Member States shall, to the fullest possible extent, provide for effective extradition or prosecution of those who engage in serious transnational crimes in order that they find no safe haven.

Article 4

Mutual cooperation and assistance in matters concerning serious transnational crime shall also include, as appropriate, the strengthening of systems for the sharing of information among Member States and the provision of bilateral and multilateral technical assistance to Member States by utilizing training, exchange programmes and law enforcement training academies and criminal justice institutes at the international level.

Article 5

Member States that have not yet done so are urged to become parties as soon as possible to the principal existing international treaties relating to various aspects of the problem of international terrorism. States parties shall effectively implement their provisions in order to fight against terrorist crimes. Member States shall also take measures to implement General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, on measures to eliminate international terrorism, and the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism contained in the annex to that resolution.

Article 6

Member States that have not yet done so are urged to become parties to the international drug control conventions as soon as possible. States parties shall effectively implement the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[11] as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[12] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[13] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.[14] Member States specifically reaffirm that, on the basis of shared responsibility, they shall take all necessary preventive and enforcement measures to eliminate the illicit production of, trafficking in and distribution and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including measures to facilitate the fight against those criminals involved in this type of transnational organized crime.

Article 7

Member States shall take measures within their national jurisdiction to improve their ability to detect and interdict the movement across borders of those who engage in serious transnational crime, as well as the instrumentalities of such crime, and shall take effective specific measures to protect their territorial boundaries, such as:

(*a*) Adopting effective controls on explosives and against illicit trafficking by criminals in certain materials and their components that are specifically designed for use in manufacturing nuclear, biological or chemical weapons and, in order to lessen risks arising from such trafficking, by becoming parties to and fully implementing all relevant international treaties relating to weapons of mass destruction;

(*b*) Strengthening supervision of passport issuance and enhancement of protection against tampering and counterfeiting;

(*c*) Strengthening enforcement of regulations on illicit transnational trafficking in firearms, with a view to both suppressing the use of firearms in criminal activities and reducing the likelihood of fuelling deadly conflict;

(*d*) Coordinating measures and exchanging information to combat the organized criminal smuggling of persons across national borders.

Article 8

To combat further the transnational flow of the proceeds of crime, Member States agree to adopt measures, as appropriate, to combat the concealment or disguise of the true origin of proceeds of serious transnational crime and the intentional conversion or transfer of such proceeds for that purpose. Member States agree to require adequate record-keeping by financial and related institutions and, as appropriate, the reporting of suspicious transactions and to ensure effective laws and procedures to permit the seizure and forfeiture of the proceeds of serious transnational crime. Member States recognize the need to limit the application of bank secrecy laws, if any, with respect to criminal operations and to obtain the cooperation of the financial institutions in detecting these and any other operations that may be used for the purpose of money-laundering.

Article 9

Member States agree to take steps to strengthen the overall professionalism of their criminal justice, law enforcement and victim assistance systems and relevant regulatory authorities through measures such as training, resource allocation and arrangements for technical assistance with other States and to promote the involvement of all elements of society in combating and preventing serious transnational crime.

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[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[12] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[13] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[14] See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

Article 10

Member States agree to combat and prohibit corruption and bribery, which undermine the legal foundations of civil society, by enforcing applicable domestic laws against such activity. For this purpose, Member States also agree to consider developing concerted measures for international cooperation to curb corrupt practices, as well as developing technical expertise to prevent and control corruption.

Article 11

Actions taken in furtherance of the present Declaration shall fully respect the national sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction of Member States, as well as the rights and obligations of Member States under existing treaties and international law, and shall be consistent with human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized by the United Nations.

51/61. United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/147 of 21 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[15]

1. *Commends* the efforts of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to promote and coordinate regional technical cooperation activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

2. *Reiterates* the need for the strengthening of the Institute's capacity to support a national mechanism for crime prevention and criminal justice of African countries, in view of the contribution that the Institute can make to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and to mobilize all relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make concrete proposals on strengthening the programmes and activities of the Institute and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to enhance regional cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the fight against crime, especially in its transnational dimension, which could not be adequately dealt with by national action alone;

6. *Appeals* to all Member States and non-governmental organizations to adopt concrete practical measures to support the Institute in the development of the requisite capacity and in the elaboration and implementation of programmes and activities aimed at strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa;

7. *Urges* the States members of the Institute to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/62. Measures for prevention of the smuggling of aliens

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/102 of 20 December 1993 in which, *inter alia*, it condemned the practice of smuggling aliens and urged States to take appropriate steps to frustrate the objectives and activities of smugglers of aliens,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1994/14 of 25 July 1994 and 1995/10 of 24 July 1995,

Concerned at the increasing activities of criminals and criminal organizations that profit illicitly by smuggling human beings, preying on the dignity and lives of migrants and adding to the complexity of the phenomenon of increasing international migration,

Aware that such activities endanger the lives of those individuals and impose severe costs on the international community, in particular upon certain States that have been called upon to rescue and to provide medical care, food, housing and transportation for those individuals,

Recognizing that international criminal groups often convince individuals to migrate illegally by various means for enormous profits and use the proceeds from smuggling human beings to finance other criminal activities,

Noting that smugglers, in particular in the State of destination of alien smuggling, frequently force migrants into forms of debt, bondage or servitude, often involving criminal activities, in order to pay for their passage,

Recognizing that socio-economic factors influence the problem of the smuggling of aliens and also contribute to the complexity of current international migration,

Reaffirming respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, including their right to control their own borders,

Recalling the undertaking of States parties to the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to

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[15] A/51/450.

Slavery,[16] signed at Geneva on 7 September 1956, to take all practicable and necessary legislative and other measures to bring about progressively and as soon as possible the complete abolition or abandonment of the practice of debt bondage,

Convinced of the need to provide humane treatment and protect the full human rights of migrants,

Concerned that the smuggling of aliens undermines public confidence in policies and procedures for immigration and for the protection of refugees,

Taking into account the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization in responding to the requests from States for assistance in dealing with the smuggling of aliens,

Emphasizing the importance of international cooperation and, in particular, the need for States to cooperate urgently at the bilateral and multilateral levels, as appropriate, to thwart these activities,

1. *Condemns* the practice of smuggling aliens in violation of international and national law or other agreements between States and without regard for the safety, well-being and human rights of the migrants;

2. *Commends* those States which have cooperated to combat alien smuggling and to respond to specific incidents in which smuggled aliens have needed to be dealt with according to international standards and the domestic laws and procedures of the States concerned and returned safely to appropriate destinations;

3. *Urges* States to take appropriate steps to frustrate the objectives and activities of smugglers of aliens and thus to protect would-be migrants from exploitation and loss of life, *inter alia*, by amending criminal laws, if necessary, to encompass the smuggling of aliens and by establishing or improving procedures to permit the ready discovery of false travel documents supplied by smugglers;

4. *Requests* States to cooperate in order to prevent the illegal transport by smugglers of third-country nationals through their territory;

5. *Also requests* States to cooperate bilaterally and on a multilateral basis to prevent the use of fraudulent documents, to continue to improve the requirements for registration of vessels and to implement relevant international agreements;

6. *Further requests* States to cooperate in the interest of safety of life at sea, to increase their efforts to prevent the smuggling of aliens on ships and to ensure, in accordance with their national legislation, that prompt and effective action is taken against the smuggling of aliens by sea;

7. *Calls upon* States to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fight against criminal organizations responsible for the smuggling of aliens;

8. *Calls upon* Member States and the relevant specialized agencies and international organizations to take into account socio-economic factors and to cooperate at the bilateral and multilateral levels in addressing all aspects of the problem of smuggling of aliens;

9. *Reaffirms* the importance of existing international conventions in preventing the economic exploitation and loss of life that can result from alien smuggling, and calls upon all States to exchange information, to consider ratifying or acceding to those conventions if they have not done so and fully to implement and enforce such conventions;

10. *Emphasizes* that international efforts to prevent the smuggling of aliens should not inhibit legal migration or freedom of travel or undercut the protection provided by international law to refugees;

11. *Reaffirms* the need to observe fully international and national law in dealing with the smuggling of aliens, including the provision of humane treatment and strict observance of all human rights of migrants;

12. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider giving attention to the question of the smuggling of aliens at its sixth session, to be held in 1997, in order to encourage international cooperation to address this problem within the framework of its mandate;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to all Member States and to the relevant specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/63. Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991 on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in which it approved the statement of principles and programme of action annexed to that resolution,

Bearing in mind the goals of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, specifically the reduction of criminality, more efficient and effective law enforcement and administration of justice, respect for human rights and promotion of the highest standards of fairness, humanity and professional conduct,

Convinced of the desirability of closer coordination and cooperation among States in combating crime, including drug-related crimes, such as terrorist crimes, illicit arms trade and money-laundering, and bearing in mind the role that could be played by both the United Nations and regional organizations in this respect,

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[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 266, No. 3822.

Recognizing the urgent need to increase technical cooperation activities in order to assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries in transition, with their efforts in translating United Nations policy guidelines into practice,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, in which it requested the Secretary-General, as a matter of urgency, to provide the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with sufficient resources for the full implementation of its mandate, in conformity with the high priority attached to the Programme,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/145 and 50/146 of 21 December 1995;[17]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the crucial role it has to play in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, in responding to the needs of the international community in the face of both national and transnational criminality and in assisting Member States in achieving the goals of preventing crime within and among States and improving the response to crime;

3. *Also reaffirms* the priority of the Programme, in accordance with the relevant resolutions, and the need for an appropriate share of the existing United Nations resources for the Programme;

4. *Welcomes* the upgrading of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat to a division, while noting the severe impact of the budgetary cuts on its capacity to deliver the services required by Member States;

5. *Reaffirms* its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure, in particular, the full implementation of section III, paragraphs 29 and 30, of that resolution;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen further the Programme by providing it with the resources necessary for the full implementation of its mandate, including follow-up action to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime[18] and to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;[19]

7. *Reaffirms* the high priority attached to technical cooperation and advisory services in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and stresses the need to continue to improve the operational activities of the Programme, in particular in developing countries and countries in transition, in order to meet the needs of Member States, at their request, for support in crime prevention and criminal justice;

8. *Calls upon* States and United Nations funding agencies to make significant financial contributions for operational activities of the Programme, and encourages all States to make voluntary contributions for that purpose to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, also taking into account the activities required for the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime;

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other international, regional and national funding agencies to support technical operational activities in this field and to include such activities in their programmes, utilizing the expertise of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in such activities and cooperating closely on relevant technical assistance projects and advisory missions;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the contributions of the Programme to United Nations peacekeeping and special missions, as well as its contributions to the follow-up to those missions, *inter alia*, through advisory services, and encourages the Secretary-General, as a way of strengthening the rule of law, to recommend the inclusion of the re-establishment and reform of criminal justice systems in peacekeeping operations;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in particular in the area of money-laundering;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to assist the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the principal policy-making body in this field, in performing its activities, including cooperation and coordination with other relevant bodies, such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women;

13. *Calls upon* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to give effect to its relevant resolutions on strategic management of the Programme, in particular those concerning reporting requirements, submission of proposals and resource mobilization;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

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[17] A/51/327.

[18] See A/49/748, annex, sect. I. A.

[19] A/CONF.169/16.

51/64. International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/168 of 23 December 1994 and 50/148 of 21 December 1995,

Gravely concerned that, despite increased efforts by States and relevant international organizations, there is a global expansion of illicit demand for, production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including synthetic and designer drugs, which threatens the health, safety and well-being of millions of persons, in particular young people, in all countries, as well as the political and socio-economic systems and the stability, national security and sovereignty of an increasing number of States,

Deeply alarmed by the growing violence and economic power of criminal organizations and terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking activities and other criminal activities, such as money laundering and illicit traffic of arms and precursors and essential chemicals, and by the increasing transnational links between them, and recognizing that enhanced international cooperation and effective strategies are required to achieve results against all forms of transnational criminal activities,

Convinced of the desirability of closer coordination and cooperation among States in combating drug-related crimes, such as terrorism, illicit arms trade and money laundering, and bearing in mind the role that could be played by both the United Nations and regional organizations in this respect,

Fully aware that States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and multilateral development banks need to accord a higher priority to dealing with this scourge, which undermines development, economic and political stability and democratic institutions, and the combat against which entails increasing economic costs for Governments and the irreparable loss of human lives,

Reaffirming and stressing the need for increased efforts to implement the comprehensive framework for international cooperation in drug control provided by the existing drug control conventions, the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking[20] and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,[21] the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action[22] adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session devoted to the question of international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances, the Declaration adopted by the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat,[23] the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control,[24] the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime[25] and other relevant international standards,

Recognizing the efforts of countries that produce narcotic drugs for scientific, medicinal and therapeutic uses to prevent the diversion of such substances to illicit markets and to maintain production at a level consistent with licit demand in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[26]

Convinced that civil society, including non-governmental organizations, can make an effective contribution to address the illicit drug problem,

Acknowledging that there are links, under certain circumstances, between poverty and the increase in the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and that the promotion of the economic development of countries affected by the illicit drug trade requires appropriate measures, including strengthened international cooperation in support of alternative and sustainable development activities in the affected areas of those countries, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production,

Stressing that respect for human rights is and must be an essential component of measures taken to address the drug problem,

Emphasizing the need for an analysis of transit routes used by drug traffickers, which are constantly changing and expanding to include a growing number of countries and regions in all parts of the world,

Underlining the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues, the leadership role and commendable work of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as the main focus for concerted international action and the important role of the International Narcotics Control Board as an independent monitoring authority as set out in the international drug control treaties,

Recalling the important and central role of relevant United Nations bodies in evaluating the implementation by States parties of their obligations under the United Nations drug control treaties, as set out in those treaties,

Convinced that the holding of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to the strengthening of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities could make a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the United

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[20] See *Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. B.

[21] Ibid., sect. A.

[22] Resolution S-17/2, annex.

[23] A/45/262, annex.

[24] See A/49/139-E/1994/57.

[25] See A/49/748, annex, sect. I. A.

[26] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

Nations and its Member States in the fight against this global problem,

I

RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING

1. *Reaffirms* that the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations;

2. *Calls upon* all States to intensify their actions to promote effective cooperation in the efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, so as to contribute to a climate conducive to achieving this end, on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

II

INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING

1. *Renews its commitment* to further strengthening international cooperation and substantially increasing efforts against the cultivation for illegal purposes, illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and to controlling and preventing the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic and psychotropic substances, in accordance with obligations of States under the United Nations drug control conventions, based on the principle of shared responsibility and taking into account experience gained;

2. *Urges* all States to ratify or accede to and implement all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[26] as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[27] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[28] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;[29]

3. *Calls upon* all States to adopt adequate national laws and regulations, to strengthen national judicial systems and to carry out effective drug control activities in cooperation with other States in accordance with those international instruments;

4. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme:

(*a*) To continue to support the focus on regional, subregional and national strategies for drug abuse control, particularly the master-plan approach, and to complement those strategies with effective interregional strategies;

(*b*) To seek to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation with multilateral development banks so that they might undertake lending and programming activities related to drug control in interested and affected countries and to inform the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on further progress made in this area;

(*c*) To continue to provide legal assistance to Member States that request it in adjusting their national laws, policies and infrastructures to implement the international drug control conventions, as well as assistance in training personnel responsible for applying the new laws;

(*d*) To continue providing assistance to Member States requesting support in establishing or strengthening national drug detection laboratories;

(*e*) To continue to include in its report on illicit traffic in drugs an assessment of worldwide trends in illicit traffic and transit in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including methods and routes used, and to recommend ways and means for improving the capacity of States along those routes to deal with all aspects of the drug problem;

5. *Reaffirms* the danger and threat posed to civil society by drug trafficking and its links to terrorism, transnational crime, money laundering and the arms trade, and encourages Governments to deal with this threat and to cooperate to prevent the channelling of funds to and between those engaged in such activities;

6. *Acknowledges* that there are links between the illicit production of, demand for and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the economic and social conditions in the affected countries and that there are differences and diversity in the problems of each country;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide increased economic and technical support to Governments that request it for programmes of alternative and sustainable development, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production and which take fully into account the cultural traditions of peoples;

8. *Recalls* that the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1995,[30] stresses the importance of participation of youth organizations and youth in decision-making processes, in particular in relation to demand reduction programmes for illicit drugs;

9. *Stresses* the need for effective government action to prevent the diversion to illicit markets of precursors and essential chemicals, materials and equipment used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

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[27] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[28] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[29] See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[30] Resolution 50/81, annex.

10. *Commends* the International Narcotics Control Board for its valuable work in monitoring the production and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances so as to limit their use to medical and scientific purposes, and urges increased efforts to implement its mandate under article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 concerning the monitoring of the movement of precursors and essential chemicals;

11. *Notes* that the International Narcotics Control Board needs sufficient resources to carry out its mandate, including under article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and therefore urges Member States to commit themselves in a common effort to assign adequate and sufficient budgetary resources to the International Narcotics Control Board, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/20 of 23 July 1996;

12. *Calls upon* States to increase efforts, with international cooperation, to reduce and eliminate illegal crops from which narcotics are obtained, as well as to prevent and reduce the demand for and the consumption of illicit drugs, in accordance with their obligations under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

13. *Underlines* the need for Governments, with international cooperation, to increase and implement alternative development programmes with the objective of reducing and eliminating the production of illicit drugs, taking into account the economic, social, cultural, political and environmental aspects of the area concerned;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to maintain the capacity of the International Narcotics Control Board, including through the provision of appropriate means by the Secretary-General, within existing resources, and adequate technical support by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving the objectives of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse 1991-2000, under the theme "A global response to a global challenge", by Member States, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations system;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to cooperate with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme by providing relevant information and their views on the draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction being developed by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in consultation with Member States, with due regard to the linkages between demand and supply reduction activities, and reaffirms the importance of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/18 of 23 July 1996 on the draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction and 1995/16 of 24 July 1995 on integration of demand reduction initiatives into a cohesive strategy to combat drug abuse;

17. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/29 of 24 July 1996 on action to strengthen international cooperation to control precursors and their substitutes used in the illicit manufacture of controlled substances, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants, and to prevent their diversion, and calls upon Member States to strengthen their efforts to control precursors and their substitutes in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board;

18. *Welcomes with satisfaction* resolution 5 (XXXVIII) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs[31] on strategies for illicit supply reduction, reaffirming the need to apply effective strategies for supply reduction, based on the implementation of plans and programmes for alternative development, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production;

19. *Stresses* the importance of the high-level segment of the 1996 session of the Economic and Social Council, at which Member States reaffirmed their political will and commitment to adopt concrete actions for enhanced international cooperation at all levels;

III

GLOBAL PROGRAMME FOR ACTION

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Global Programme of Action[22] as a comprehensive framework for national, regional and international action to combat illicit production of, demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

2. *Calls upon* States to implement the mandates and recommendations of the Global Programme of Action, with a view to translating it into practical action for drug abuse control at the national, regional and international levels;

3. *Urges* all Governments and competent regional organizations to develop a balanced approach within the framework of comprehensive demand reduction activities, giving adequate priority to prevention, treatment, research, social reintegration and training in the context of national strategic plans to combat drug abuse;

4. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other concerned intergovernmental organizations and all actors of civil society, notably non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, sports associations and the private sector, to cooperate with and assist States in their efforts to promote and implement the Global Programme of Action;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to facilitate reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and

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[31] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 9* (E/1995/29), chap. XII, sect. A.

encourages them to pursue those efforts so as to increase the number of Governments that respond;

6. *Notes* the efforts being made by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other United Nations bodies to obtain reliable data on drug abuse and illicit trafficking, including the development of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System, encourages the Programme, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, to take further steps to facilitate the efficient collection of data so as to avoid duplication of effort, and encourages also the increased and timely provision of updated information by Member States;

7. *Takes note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/20 of 23 July 1996 on strengthening of the role of the International Narcotics Control Board and development of a unified information system for the collection and analysis of data concerning the nature, patterns and trends of the global problem of drug abuse;

8. *Invites* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to consider ways of providing assistance to Member States that request it in their efforts to establish appropriate mechanisms to collect and analyse data and to seek voluntary resources for this purpose;

9. *Underlines* the importance of precise and reliable information on the impact of the drug problem on the world economy;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to make efforts to provide systematic, precise and updated information to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on the various ways in which the drug problem affects their economies;

IV

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE COMBAT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/17 of 23 July 1996, and notes with satisfaction the support expressed at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council of 1996 for the proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 1998;

2. *Decides* to convene a special session in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs;

3. *Stresses* that the special session should, as noted in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/17, be devoted to assessing the existing situation within the framework of a comprehensive and balanced approach that includes all aspects of the problem, with a view to strengthening international cooperation to address the problem of illicit drugs within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[29] and other relevant conventions and international instruments;

4. *Reaffirms* that, at its special session, it will address the issues on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility and with full respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States;

5. *Decides* that the special session will be held for three days in June 1998, immediately after all the necessary preparatory work has been done to ensure its success and ten years after the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

6. *Decides also* that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should act as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly and that its deliberations should be open-ended, allowing for the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with established practice;

7. *Invites* the Commission on Narcotics Drugs to take appropriate measures to prepare for the special session, as early as possible, including the possibility of establishing working groups;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives by Member States aimed at providing input to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its capacity as a preparatory forum for the special session, including the convening of groups of high-level governmental experts;

9. *Recognizes* the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action contained in the annex to resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, and recognizes the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contribution during the special session;

10. *Decides* that the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly should be funded through the regular budget of the United Nations, bearing in mind the need to keep financial costs to a minimum, and that Governments should be invited to make extrabudgetary contributions to meet those costs;

11. *Decides also* that, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council, the special session shall have the following objectives:

(*a*) To promote the adherence to and full implementation by all States of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[26] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[28] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

(*b*) To adopt measures to increase international cooperation to contribute to the application of the law;

(*c*) To adopt measures to avoid the diversion of chemicals used in illicit drug production and to strengthen control of the production of and traffic in stimulants and their precursors;

(*d*) To adopt and promote drug abuse control programmes and policies and other measures, including those at the international level, to reduce the illicit demand for drugs;

(*e*) To adopt measures to prevent and sanction money laundering, in order to implement the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

(*f*) To encourage international cooperation to develop programmes of eradication of illicit crops and to promote alternative development programmes;

(*g*) To adopt measures to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in the fight against drug trafficking and related organized crime, against terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and against illicit arms trade;

12. *Decides further*, at its special session, to review resolution S-17/2, particularly the progress made in implementing the Global Programme of Action annexed thereto;

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for, possible outcome of and organizational matters relating to the special session of the General Assembly,[32] and invites the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, while undertaking preparations for the special session, to bear in mind the recommendations contained in that report;

14. *Invites* the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress in the preparations for the special session;

15. *Stresses* the importance of taking into account a gender perspective in preparing the outcome of the special session;

16. *Encourages* the participation of developing countries and assistance to the least developed countries, in order to work actively towards the attainment of the objectives and goals of the special session;

17. *Invites* organs, organizations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including multilateral development banks, to contribute fully to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, in particular by submitting to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the preparatory body for the special session, through the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, concrete recommendations on the issues to be addressed by the special session;

V

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL: ACTION BY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. *Supports* the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control[24] as a vital tool for the coordination and enhancement of drug abuse control activities within the United Nations system, and requests that it be updated and reviewed on a biennial basis with a view to continuing efforts to improve its presentation and usefulness as a strategic tool of the United Nations for the drug problem;

2. *Reaffirms* the role of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities, so as to increase cost-effectiveness and ensure coherence of action within the Programme as well as coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of such activities throughout the United Nations system;

3. *Urges* the United Nations organizations associated with the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control to collaborate further with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to integrate the drug control dimension and assistance into their programming and planning processes to ensure that the drug problem is being addressed in all its aspects in relevant programmes;

4. *Takes note* of the recent action taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure the increased commitment by the specialized agencies, programmes and funds, as well as international financial institutions, to include the drug control dimension in their programmes of work;

5. *Invites* Member States to engage United Nations agencies and multilateral development banks in addressing the drug problem in all its aspects and to promote due consideration by governing bodies of requests for assistance for drug control programmes at the national level;

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[32] A/51/469.

VI

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to implement its mandates within the framework of the international drug control treaties, the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,[21] the Global Programme of Action[22] and relevant consensus documents;

2. *Notes with concern* the decline of available resources for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

3. *Endorses* Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 10 (XXXIX)[33] regarding a new system of financing activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and urges all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the organization by widening the donor base of the Programme and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities;

4. *Invites* Governments and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to consider ways and means of improving the coordination of United Nations drug control-related activities;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to comply with the approved format and methodology of the programme budget of the Fund, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and encourages the Executive Director to continue his efforts to improve the presentation and transparency of the budget;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the meetings of heads of national law enforcement agencies, and encourages them to consider ways to improve their functioning and to strengthen their impact so as to enhance cooperation in the fight against drugs at the regional level;

VII

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted under the item entitled "International drug control";[34]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account the promotion of integrated reporting:

(*a*) To submit comments to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, if necessary, on the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs regarding the preparations for the 1998 special session of the General Assembly;

(*b*) To include in his annual report on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action recommendations on ways and means to improve implementation and provision of information by Member States;

(*c*) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session an updated report on the status of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.[29]

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/65. Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[35]

Affirming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights,[36] held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development,[37] held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, the World Summit for Social Development,[38] held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995 and the Fourth World Conference on Women,[39] held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, specifically as the results pertain to women migrant workers,

Noting the holding of the expert group meeting on violence against women migrant workers at Manila from 27 to 31 May 1996, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of the Philippines for hosting the meeting,

Taking note of resolution 1996/12 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities[40] concerning, *inter alia*, women migrant workers,

Conscious of the great importance given to the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons belonging to groups that have been rendered vulnerable, including migrant workers, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them and the strengthening and more effective implementation of existing human rights instruments,

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[33] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 7*, (E/1996/27), chap. XIV.

[34] A/51/129-E/1996/53, A/51/436, A/51/437 and A/51/469.

[35] Resolution 48/104.

[36] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I).

[37] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994*, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

[38] See A/CONF.166/9.

[39] See A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.

[40] See E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41, chap. II, sect. A.

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families as a consequence of, *inter alia*, poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, and acknowledging the duty of sending States to work for conditions that provide employment and security to their citizens,

Acknowledging the economic benefits that accrue to sending and receiving States from the employment of women migrant workers,

Emphasizing the need for accurate, objective and comprehensive information and data as a basis for policy formulation,

Concerned by the continuing reports of grave abuses and acts of violence committed against the persons of women migrant workers by some employers in some host countries,

Encouraged by measures adopted by some receiving States to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing within their areas of jurisdiction,

Reiterating that acts of violence directed against women impair or nullify their enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers;[41]

2. *Determines* to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

3. *Encourages* Member States to enact and/or reinforce penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs done to women and girls who are subjected to any form of violence, whether in the home, the workplace, the community or society;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt and/or implement and periodically to review and analyse legislation to ensure its effectiveness in eliminating violence against women, emphasizing the prevention of violence and the prosecution of offenders, and to take measures to ensure the protection of women subjected to violence and their access to just and effective remedies, including compensation and indemnification and healing of victims, and for the rehabilitation of perpetrators;

5. *Invites* Member States concerned, specifically the sending and receiving States, to consider adopting appropriate legal measures against intermediaries who deliberately encourage the clandestine movement of workers and who exploit women migrant workers;

6. *Reiterates* the need for States concerned, specifically the sending and receiving States of women migrant workers, to conduct regular consultations for the purpose of identifying problem areas in promoting and protecting the rights of women migrant workers and ensuring health, legal and social services for them, adopting specific measures to address those problems, setting up, as necessary, linguistically and culturally accessible services and mechanisms to implement those measures and, in general, creating conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance between women migrant workers and the rest of the society in which they reside;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[42] as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926;[43]

8. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, as well as all relevant bodies and programmes in the United Nations system, when addressing the issue of violence against women, to give particular attention to the issue of violence perpetrated against women migrant workers;

9. *Invites* Member States, as well as relevant international organizations, to provide their views and comments to the Secretary-General on the issue of indicators as a basis for addressing the situation of women migrant workers, as set forth in the report of the Secretary-General;

10. *Also invites* the Administrative Committee on Coordination, within its mandate, to examine how to improve coordination within the United Nations system on the question of violence against women migrant workers;

11. *Invites* the regional commissions and the regional offices of the International Labour Organization to examine ways and means, within their mandates, of dealing with concerns pertaining to women migrant workers;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the reports received from all authorities and bodies of the United Nations system, Member States, intergovernmental organizations and other concerned bodies, with due regard for possible measures to improve reporting procedure.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/66. Traffic in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[44] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[45] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[46] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[47] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[48] and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[49]

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[41] A/51/325.

[42] Resolution 45/158, annex.

[43] See *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XIV.1 (vol. I, Part I)).

[44] Resolution 217 A (III).

[45] Resolution 34/180, annex.

Recalling the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[50] and taking note of the comments contained in the report of the Secretary-General,[51]

Recalling also all previous resolutions on the problem of the traffic in women and girls,

Affirming the provisions of the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights,[52] held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development,[53] held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, the World Summit for Social Development,[54] held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women,[55] held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,[56] held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995, pertaining to the traffic in women and children,

Acknowledging the work done by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in compiling information on the scale and complexity of the problem of trafficking, in providing shelters for trafficked women and children and in effecting their voluntary repatriation to their countries of origin,

Noting with concern the increasing number of women and girl children from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who are being victimized by traffickers, and acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also victimizes young boys,

Convinced of the need to eliminate all forms of sexual violence and sexual trafficking, including for prostitution and other forms of commercial sex, which are violations of the human rights of women and girl children and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person,

Realizing the urgent need for the adoption of effective measures nationally, regionally and internationally to protect women and girl children from this nefarious traffic,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the traffic in women and girls;[51]

2. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996;

3. *Calls upon* Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination and regional and international organizations, as appropriate, to implement the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women[57] by:

(*a*) Considering the ratification and enforcement of international conventions on trafficking in persons and on slavery;

(*b*) Taking appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour in order to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing the perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

(*c*) Stepping up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking;

(*d*) Allocating resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and confidential health care and by taking measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims of trafficking;

(*e*) Developing educational and training programmes and policies and considering enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

4. *Invites* Governments to accord standard minimum humanitarian treatment to trafficked persons, consistent with human rights standards;

5. *Also invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, to formulate manuals for the training of personnel who receive and/or hold in temporary custody victims of gender-based violence, including trafficking, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of victims;

6. *Encourages*, in this regard, relevant United Nations organizations and bodies, including the International Research

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[46] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[47] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[48] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[49] Resolution 48/104.

[50] Resolution 317 (IV).

[51] A/51/309.

[52] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I).

[53] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994*, (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

[54] See A/CONF.166/9.

[55] A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.

[56] See A/CONF.169/16.

[57] A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to contribute to the preparation of guidelines for the use of Governments in the elaboration of their manuals, in cooperation with all relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including those concerned with traumatic stress, taking into account existing research material or studies on the subject;

7. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize trafficking in women and girls in all its forms and to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether their offence was committed in their own or in a foreign country, while ensuring that the victims of these practices are not penalized, and to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

8. *Urges* Governments concerned to support comprehensive practical approaches by the international community to assist women and children victims of transnational trafficking to return home and to be reintegrated in their home societies;

9. *Invites* relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide advisory services to Governments, upon their request, in planning and setting up rehabilitation programmes for victims of trafficking and in training personnel who will be directly involved in the implementation of those programmes;

10. *Encourages* Governments, institutions and non-governmental organizations to take preventive and assistance measures, including by establishing helplines to enable victims or potential victims of trafficking to seek assistance, and to provide targeted training to those groups dealing with this problem, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, using as far as possible female police officers to assist victims;

11. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in addressing the obstacles to the realization of the human rights of women, in particular through his contacts with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to include the traffic in women and girls among his priority concerns;

12. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, taking into account the general recommendation of the Committee, and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, respectively;

13. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality to continue to address the issue as part of the integrated follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

14. *Encourages* all Governments to develop methodologies and to collect national information, including statistical data, on trafficking in women and girls in countries with special vulnerability;

15. *Encourages* countries with special vulnerability to conduct campaigns designed to increase public awareness of the problem;

16. *Welcomes* the consideration given to the problem of trafficking in women and girls by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and invites the Commission to continue to consider appropriate measures to address this issue;

17. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Economic and Social Council to devote its coordination segment of 1997 to mainstreaming a gender perspective;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/67. Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Recalling Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Article 8, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

Recalling also its resolutions 45/125 of 14 December 1990 and 45/239 C of 21 December 1990, as well as the relevant paragraphs of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,[58]

Concerned at the serious and continuing underrepresentation of women in the Secretariat, particularly at the D-1 level and above, where the numbers of women remain unacceptably low,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[59]

2. *Also welcomes* the achievement of the goal of 35 per cent overall participation rate of women in posts subject to geographical distribution;

3. *Reaffirms* the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by the year 2000, and expresses its concern that this goal may not

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[58] A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[59] A/51/304.

be met, especially at policy-making and decision-making levels (D-1 and above);

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to ensure full and urgent implementation of the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995-2000)[60] in order to achieve the goal contained in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women for overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that individual managers are held accountable for implementing the strategic plan within their areas of responsibility;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his work to create a gender-sensitive work environment, including through training and implementation of all appropriate administrative procedures, in particular the special measures outlined in his report, and through further development of a policy on sexual harassment;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to enable the Focal Point for Women within the Secretariat effectively to monitor and facilitate progress in the implementation of the strategic plan;

8. *Strongly encourages* Member States to support the strategic plan and the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to increase the percentage of women in Professional posts, especially at the D-1 level and above, by identifying and regularly submitting more women candidates and by encouraging women to apply for posts within the Secretariat, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions;

9. *Urges* the Secretary-General to increase the number of women employed in the Secretariat from developing countries, including at the D-1 level and above, particularly those that are unrepresented or underrepresented and from countries that have a low representation of women, including countries with economies in transition;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on progress made on the status of women in the Secretariat to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/68. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[61] in which the Conference reaffirmed that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Welcoming the growing number of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[62] which now stands at one hundred and fifty-four,

Having considered the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fourteenth[63] and fifteenth[64] sessions,

Noting that the number of reports to the Committee has increased as a result of the growing number of States parties to the Convention and that the annual session of the Committee has been the shortest of all the annual sessions of the human rights treaty bodies, thus creating a considerable backlog of reports submitted but not considered,

1. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to do so as soon as possible, so that universal ratification of the Convention can be achieved by the year 2000;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of full compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

3. *Urges* States to limit the extent of any reservations they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

4. *Invites* States parties to the Convention to make all possible efforts to submit their reports on the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 18 thereof and with the guidelines provided by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to

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[60] A/49/587 and Corr.1, sect. IV.

[61] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[62] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[63] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/50/38).

[64] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/51/38).

cooperate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

5. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment to enter into force;

6. *Approves* the request made by the Committee and supported by the States parties to the Convention for additional meeting time so as to allow the Committee to hold two sessions annually, each of three weeks' duration, preceded by a pre-session working group, for an interim period starting in 1997;

7. *Welcomes* the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of the Commission on the Status of Women;[65]

8. *Decides* to authorize the Open-ended Working Group to meet for ten working days, in parallel with the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/69. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/42 of 8 December 1995 and 50/203 of 22 December 1995,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and 1996/34 of 25 July 1996 on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the previous World Conferences on Women, held at Mexico City in 1975,[66] at Copenhagen in 1980[67] and at Nairobi in 1985,[68]

Recognizing the significance of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[69] held at Beijing in 1995, to make a real change for the empowerment of women and thus to the fulfilment of the goals adopted in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[70]

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration[71] and the Platform for Action,[72] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action rests primarily at the national level, that Governments, non-governmental organizations and public and private institutions should be involved in the implementation process and that national mechanisms also have an important role to play,

Bearing in mind that promotion of international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action requires commitment from Governments and the international community,

Recognizing also the important role played by States, the United Nations, the regional commissions and other international organizations, as well as by non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the preparatory process of the Conference and the importance of their involvement in the implementation of the Platform for Action,

Taking into account the fact that the follow-up to the Conference should be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to the advancement of women within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields, as well as the overall responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, will constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that will play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, and reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

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[65] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 6* (E/1996/26), annex III.

[66] See *Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1).

[67] See *Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum).

[68] See *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10).

[69] See A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.

[70] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[71] A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[72] Ibid., annex II.

Reaffirming that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council in the monitoring, within the United Nations system, of the implementation of the Platform for Action and in advising the Council thereon and should therefore be strengthened,

Reaffirming also that the Economic and Social Council should continue to oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Platform for Action and ensure overall coordination of the follow-up to and implementation of the results of all United Nations international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and report thereon to the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women;[73]

2. *Takes note* of initiatives and actions taken by Governments and the international community towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted by the Conference;

3. *Calls once again upon* States, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the Platform for Action, in particular by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective implementation of the Platform;

4. *Welcomes* the contribution of the report of the Secretary-General in translating the concept of mainstreaming into practical action, including the ongoing work to develop methodologies to facilitate the application of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes throughout the United Nations system;

5. *Calls* for intensified efforts at the international level to integrate the equal status and all human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout the relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms;

6. *Stresses* that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, and reaffirms that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to its implementation and should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women;

7. *Calls upon* States, with the assistance of non-governmental organizations, to continue to disseminate widely the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

8. *Welcomes* the progress made by Governments thus far towards meeting the commitment to developing, by 1996, comprehensive implementation strategies or plans of action, including time-bound targets and benchmarks for monitoring, and urges all Governments that have not yet done so to undertake efforts in this regard, in order to implement fully the Platform for Action;

9. *Also welcomes* the contribution made to the elaboration of guidelines for national strategies or plans of action by regional and subregional conferences on the implementation of the Platform for Action, such as the Outline of a Model National Action Plan by the Subregional Conference of Senior Governmental Experts held at Bucharest from 12 to 14 September 1996,[74] which may assist other Governments, too, in meeting this commitment, and in this respect encourages the support of, *inter alia*, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat;

10. *Urges* Governments that have not yet done so to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, appropriate intra- and interministerial procedures and staffing and other institutions with the mandate and capacity to broaden women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes, so as to ensure the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, and takes note of regional initiatives for strengthening national machineries;

11. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations to contribute to the design and implementation of these strategies or national plans of action in addition to their own programmes that complement government efforts;

12. *Calls upon* Governments to invite and encourage the active support and participation of a broad and diverse range of other institutional actors, including legislative bodies, academic and research institutions, professional associations, trade unions, local community groups and the media, as well as financial and non-profit organizations, for the implementation of the Platform for Action;

13. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and the necessity of promoting cooperation among Governments of the same region in this respect;

14. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council, in order to facilitate the regional implementation, monitoring and evaluation process, to consider reviewing the institutional capacity of the United Nations regional commissions, in accordance with paragraph 302 of the Platform for Action, and to consider, in this context, how best to integrate the inputs by the regional commissions into the overall monitoring and follow-up to the Platform for Action;

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[73] A/51/322.

[74] See SRC/CEE/REP.1.

15. *Calls upon* States to take action to fulfil the commitments made at the Conference for the advancement of women and for the strengthening of international cooperation, and reaffirms that adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and in the least developed countries;

16. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the United Nations system-wide initiative on Africa, to pay special attention to the needs and role of women as actors and beneficiaries in the development process;

17. *Recognizes* that implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition requires continued international cooperation and assistance, as indicated in the Platform for Action;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to allocate sufficient resources for undertaking gender impact analyses in order to develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action;

19. *Stresses* that full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action will require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women, the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes, as well as adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men;

20. *Welcomes* the input of the Commission on the Status of Women to the discussion on the eradication of poverty in the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council, *inter alia*, in relation to mainstreaming a gender perspective in poverty eradication activities and the use of available funding sources and mechanisms, with a view to contributing to the goals of poverty eradication and targeting women living in poverty;

21. *Urges* Governments, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to empower women through concrete actions, policies and programmes, including integration of gender perspectives;

22. *Requests* Governments and the international community to implement specific programmes for the eradication of poverty and illiteracy, ensuring women's equal access to education, training, employment and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities, and strongly urges the international community to support national efforts towards the advancement of women in the developing countries, particularly in Africa, and in the least developed countries;

23. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

24. *Reaffirms also* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

25. *Calls upon* those States committed to the 20:20 initiative to integrate a gender perspective fully into its implementation, as referred to in paragraph 358 of the Platform for Action;

26. *Recognizes* that the creation of an enabling environment, at the national and international levels, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

27. *Calls upon* Member States to commit themselves to gender balance, *inter alia*, through the creation of special mechanisms, in all government-appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies, as appropriate, as well as in all international bodies, institutions and organizations, notably by presenting and promoting more women candidates;

28. *Also calls upon* Member States to aim at and support gender balance in the composition of delegations to the United Nations and other international forums;

29. *Reaffirms* that the implementation of the Platform for Action will require immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just and humane world based on all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principle of equality for all people of all ages and from all walks of life, and to this end, recognizes that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice;

30. *Stresses*, in relation to the United Nations, that the Platform for Action needs to be implemented through the work of all the bodies and organizations of the system during the period 1995-2000, specifically and as an integral part of wider programming;

31. *Also stresses* that the means of implementation of the Platform for Action should include mainstreaming a gender perspective in the context of preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

32. *Welcomes* the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 and its decision to undertake, in 1998, a comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the revised plan as a basis for future programming and coordination of activities for the advancement and empowerment of women by the United Nations system, including a review of the progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination,

to formulate a new system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women to cover the period 2002-2005, to submit a new draft plan to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000 in order to provide guidance for the medium-term plans of the individual organizations of the United Nations system and to submit the draft plan to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session for comments;

34. *Reiterates* the need for an enhanced framework for international cooperation for gender-related issues in the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the Platform for Action, taking into account the results of global United Nations summits and conferences;

35. *Welcomes* the decision of the Economic and Social Council to devote its 1997 coordination segment to mainstreaming a gender perspective, and reiterates its invitation to the Council to consider devoting one high-level segment and one operational segment to the advancement of women and the implementation of the Platform for Action, before the year 2000, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women and all other functional commissions of the Council and the need for a system-wide approach to the implementation of the Platform for Action;

36. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, and notes the work done by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues for the system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action;

37. *Further welcomes* the fact that the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality will serve as a forum for information exchange and the promotion of programme coordination and collaborative arrangements among organizations of the system and will be responsible for addressing, on a comprehensive system-wide basis, all aspects of the implementation of the Platform for Action and gender-related recommendations emanating from other recent international conferences within the purview of the United Nations system;

38. *Welcomes* developments in coordination at the inter-agency level, including work done by the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality which is expected to move forward the conceptual discussion of mainstreaming, and stresses the need for further work to mainstream a gender perspective into the day-to-day work of United Nations staff throughout the system and in intergovernmental action beyond the social sectors and operational activities;

39. *Also welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6, in which the Council strengthened the mandate and the terms of reference of the Commission on the Status of Women and endorsed the Commission's multi-year work programme for the period 1996-2000, and also welcomes the agreed conclusions 1996/1 of the Commission on the Status of Women of March 1996 on the Commission's methods of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform for Action;[75]

40. *Invites once again* all other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, within their mandates, to take due account of the Platform for Action and to ensure the integration of gender aspects in their respective work;

41. *Welcomes* the measures taken by the Secretary-General to date to ensure coordination of policy within the United Nations for the implementation of the Platform for Action and the mainstreaming of a system-wide gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system, including training, in accordance with paragraph 326 of the Platform for Action;

42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present action-oriented recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment on means to enhance system-wide coordination on gender issues and to mainstream a gender perspective throughout the United Nations system;

43. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to disseminate the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action as widely as possible, including to the competent organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

44. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division for the Advancement of Women can effectively carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action by, *inter alia*, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to ensure that the resident coordinators fully incorporate a gender perspective in integrating the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women into the coordinated follow-up to recent global United Nations conferences;

46. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to amend its reporting guidelines in line with the recommendations of paragraph 323 of the Platform for Action to enable it to consider reports submitted by States parties, and invites States parties to include information on measures taken to implement the Platform for Action in their reports;

47. *Notes* the importance of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the implementation of the Platform for Action;

48. *Commends* the work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on the issues addressing, *inter alia*, the process of the economic and

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[75] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 6* (E/1996/26), chap. I, sect. C. 1.

political empowerment of women, statistics and indicators in gender issues, and requests the Institute to incorporate in its biennial work programme appropriate actions in order to carry out research and training components relevant to the twelve critical areas of concern and the implementation of the Platform for Action, within its area of expertise;

49. *Also commends* the work of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in providing a strategic and focused response to the follow-up and implementation of the Platform for Action through its advocacy and operational activities in support of women's economic and political empowerment, and encourages the Fund to provide technical support to operationalize the Platform for Action at the national level through, *inter alia*, the resident coordinator system and taking into account decision 1996/43 of 13 September 1996 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund;[76]

50. *Encourages* the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women to strengthen their cooperation and coordination;

51. *Encourages* international financial institutions to review and revise policies, procedures and staffing to ensure that investments and programmes benefit women and thus contribute to sustainable development;

52. *Invites* the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system;

53. *Decides* to appraise the progress on an annual basis and to retain in the agenda of its forthcoming sessions the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women", with a view to assessing, in the year 2000, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Platform for Action in an appropriate forum;

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and thereafter annually, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements and measures taken and progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/70. Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/113 of 20 December 1993, 49/173 of 23 December 1994 and, in particular, 50/151 of 21 December 1995,

Taking note with satisfaction of the successful conclusion of the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States, held at Geneva on 30 and 31 May 1996,

Aware that involuntary, mass displacement, in addition to the human suffering involved, imposes significant economic and social burdens and may affect security and stability at the regional level,

Reaffirming the view of the Conference that, while the primary responsibility for tackling population displacement problems lies with the affected countries themselves, the serious challenges cannot be met by the limited resources and experience of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States individually,

Recalling that the protection and promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions are essential to prevent mass population displacement,

Mindful that effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference[77] should be facilitated and can be ensured only through cooperation and coordinated activities undertaken in this respect by all interested States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other actors,

Welcoming the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation that made the preparatory process of the Conference and the Conference itself a success,

Reaffirming the importance of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[78] and its 1967 Protocol,[79]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[80]

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Switzerland and other host States that made it possible to convene the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary

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[76] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 13*, (E/1996/33).

[77] A/51/341, appendix.

[78] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[79] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[80] A/51/341.

Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States and a series of preparatory meetings, as well as to those States that made voluntary contributions for this purpose;

3. *Welcomes* the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference on 31 May 1996;[77]

4. *Also welcomes* the innovative approach and close cooperation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in initiating and supporting a multilateral constructive dialogue among a wide range of countries concerned that has brought agreement on guidelines for practical action;

5. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the work of the Conference, which laid down a solid foundation for further action by countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and States concerned and relevant international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

6. *Underlines* the urgent need to address the problems of those displaced, implement measures to prevent situations leading to further involuntary population displacement and effectively manage other types of migratory flows in the region;

7. *Urges* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to take further action with a view to the full implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

8. *Invites* all countries that have not yet done so to accede to and implement fully the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

9. *Calls upon* the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to continue to strengthen their commitment to the principles underlying the Programme of Action and to ensure progress in its implementation;

10. *Recognizes* that implementation of the Programme of Action requires additional financial resources, and calls for international cooperation in order to assist the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the field of migration and related matters;

11. *Welcomes* the readiness of States and interested international organizations to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for the practical implementation of the Programme of Action in a spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing;

12. *Invites* international financial and other institutions to contribute to financing projects and programmes within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

13. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and invites the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to continue to steer in close coordination the ongoing and future activities ensuring progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

14. *Calls upon* all relevant United Nations organs, bodies and organizations to promote, within their respective mandates, the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference;

15. *Recognizes* the important role to be played by non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and encourages the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and international organizations to strengthen their cooperation with non-governmental organizations and to involve them actively in the follow-up to the Conference;

16. *Reaffirms* the necessity for effective follow-up mechanisms to the Conference;

17. *Highly appreciates* the initial steps undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action;

18. *Invites* the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to demonstrate similar initiative in contributing to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

19. *Welcomes* the Joint Operational Strategy for 1996-2000 of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which outlines the practical dimensions of implementing the results of the Conference;

20. *Emphasizes* the necessity of fulfilling the recommendations of the Programme of Action relating to ensuring respect for human rights as an important factor in the management of migration flows, the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and stability;

21. *Urges* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to take into account those elements of the Programme of Action that are relevant to his mandate;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the measures taken and proposed and on progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to continue examination of this question at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/71. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/149 of 21 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[81] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[82]

Convinced of the necessity of strengthening the capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation of relief programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Welcoming the ongoing process of voluntary repatriation of refugees in some parts of Africa,

Taking note of resolution CM/Res.1653 (LXIV) on refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996,[83]

Recalling the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2312 (XXII) of 14 December 1967, by which it adopted the Declaration on Territorial Asylum,

Recognizing the need for States to create conditions conducive both to the prevention of flows of refugees and displaced persons and to solutions, especially voluntary repatriation,

Bearing in mind that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children,

Noting with great concern that despite all the efforts deployed so far by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa, especially in the West African and Great Lakes regions and in the Horn of Africa, remains precarious,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[81] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[82]

2. *Notes with concern* that the effects of political instability, internal strife, human rights violations and natural disasters such as drought have led to increased numbers of refugees and displaced persons in some countries of Africa;

3. *Expresses deep concern* at the serious and far-reaching consequences of large numbers of refugees and displaced persons in the receiving countries and the implications for security, long-term socio-economic development and the environment;

4. *Expresses its appreciation and strong support* for those African Governments and local populations which, in spite of the general deterioration of socio-economic and environmental conditions, as well as over-stretched national resources, continue to accept the additional burden imposed upon them by increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons in compliance with the relevant principles of asylum;

5. *Expresses concern* at instances where the fundamental principle of asylum is jeopardized by the unlawful expulsion or refoulement, or the threat to life, physical security, integrity, dignity and the well-being of refugees;

6. *Commends* the Governments concerned for their sacrifices in providing assistance and protection to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and for their efforts to promote voluntary repatriation and other durable solutions;

7. *Expresses its gratitude* to the international community, and to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in particular, for the humanitarian assistance it has continued to render to refugees and displaced persons as well as to the countries of asylum;

8. *Welcomes* the strengthening of cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Organization of African Unity at all levels, and urges the two organizations, in conjunction with United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the international community and the Governments concerned, to increase efforts aimed at facilitating voluntary repatriation in a dignified and orderly manner, as well as addressing the root causes of the refugee problem and working out modalities for a lasting solution;

9. *Reiterates* that the Plan of Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura from 15 to 17 February 1995, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/149, continues to be a viable framework for the resolution of the refugee and humanitarian problems in that region;

10. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner and other concerned entities to intensify protection activities by, *inter alia*, supporting the efforts of African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles and providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees;

11. *Appeals* to Governments, United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community to create conditions that can facilitate the voluntary return and the early rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees;

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[81] A/51/367.

[82] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/51/12).

[83] See A/51/524, annex I.

12. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively to the third-country resettlement requests of African refugees in the spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing;

13. *Commends* the Governments of the Great Lakes and West African regions and the Office of the High Commissioner for their initiatives to promote repatriation within the framework of tripartite agreements on voluntary repatriation of refugees in the region;

14. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to cooperate with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in emergency humanitarian situations in Africa;

15. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with host Governments, United Nations and non-governmental organizations and the international community, in addressing the negative impact of large-scale refugee influxes and concentrations on the environment and ecosystems of countries of asylum;

16. *Notes with satisfaction* the voluntary return of millions of refugees to their homelands following the successful repatriation and reintegration operations carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner, with the cooperation and collaboration of many countries hosting refugees, and looks forward to other programmes to assist the voluntary repatriation of all refugees in Africa;

17. *Expresses its concern* about the long stay of refugees in certain African countries, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to keep its programmes under review in conformity with its mandate in the host countries, taking into account the increasing requirements there;

18. *Urges* the international community to continue to fund the general refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa;

19. *Calls upon* Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole to strengthen the emergency response capacity of the United Nations system on the basis of the experience of the emergency in the Great Lakes region and to continue to provide needed resources and operational support to refugees and countries of asylum in Africa until a permanent solution can be found;

20. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure in areas affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

21. *Requests* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children;

22. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to increase the capacity for coordination and delivery of humanitarian emergency assistance and disaster relief in general with States and others concerned in respect of asylum, relief, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, including those refugees in urban areas;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/72. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1996/221 of 2 May 1996 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the requests regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the note verbale dated 11 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[84] and the note verbale dated 12 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[85]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from fifty-one to fifty-three States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its organizational session of 1997.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/73. Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/172 of 23 December 1994 and 50/150 of 21 December 1995,

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[84] E/1996/20.

[85] E/1996/21.

Aware of the fact that the majority of refugees are children and women,

Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable and at risk of neglect, violence, forced military recruitment, sexual assault and other abuses and therefore require special assistance and care,

Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

Noting the revised Guidelines on Refugee Children issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in May 1994 and the development of an emergency kit to facilitate coordination and to enhance the quality of responses to the needs of unaccompanied minors by the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Children's Fund and non-governmental organizations,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner in the identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors, and welcoming its effort in reunifying family members of refugees,

Welcoming the efforts exerted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the reunification of family members of refugees,

Noting the efforts of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and that further efforts need to be exerted to this effect,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[86] and the 1951 Convention[87] and the 1967 Protocol[88] relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[89]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the continued plight of unaccompanied refugee minors, and emphasizes once again the urgent need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

3. *Expresses the hope* that adequate resources will be provided for programmes of identification and tracing of unaccompanied refugee minors;

4. *Calls upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, to incorporate policies that aim at preventing refugee family separation into its programmes, conscious of the importance of family unity;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments, the Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return to and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

6. *Urges* the Office of the High Commissioner, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate to the needs and interests of the unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

7. *Condemns* all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their forced recruitment into military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations and international organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors in the areas of relief, education, health and psychological rehabilitation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/74. New international humanitarian order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/170 of 23 December 1994 and other pertinent resolutions[90] relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order and international cooperation in the humanitarian field,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[91] and the previous reports[92] containing the comments and views of Governments, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations,

Noting that a number of Governments have not yet submitted their comments with regard to the above-mentioned resolutions,

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[86] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[87] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[88] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[89] A/51/329.

[90] Resolutions 36/136 of 14 December 1981, 37/201 of 18 December 1982, 38/125 of 16 December 1983, 40/126 of 13 December 1985, 42/120 and 42/121 of 7 December 1987, 43/129 and 43/130 of 8 December 1988, 45/101 and 45/102 of 14 December 1990 and 47/106 of 16 December 1992.

[91] A/51/454.

[92] A/37/145, A/38/450, A/40/358 and Add.1 and 2, A/41/472, A/43/734 and Add.1, A/45/524, A/47/352 and A/49/577 and Corr.1.

Noting with deep concern the growing scale of humanitarian emergencies involving widespread suffering, loss of life and uprootedness,

Noting the corresponding increase in the burden on the international community in providing emergency relief for protracted periods while durable solutions remain evasive, to the detriment of stability and security and thereby adversely affecting economic and social development,

Bearing in mind the urgent need to ensure respect for and promotion of the principles and norms relating to humanitarian emergencies,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continuing support for the efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order;

2. *Urges* Governments and governmental and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to submit their comments and views to the Secretary-General regarding the promotion of a new international humanitarian order;

3. *Requests* Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian issues of special concern to them, in order to identify opportunities for future action;

4. *Invites* the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to continue and to strengthen further its activities in cooperation with the governmental and non-governmental bodies concerned, including local and regional capacity-building to respond to humanitarian problems and the search for more effective measures to increase international cooperation in the humanitarian field;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments and non-governmental organizations, including the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, in order to report in a comprehensive manner on the progress made by them to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/75. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of her Office[93] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its forty-seventh session,[94]

Recalling its resolution 50/152 of 21 December 1995,

Reaffirming the fundamental importance of the 1951 Convention[95] and the 1967 Protocol[96] relating to the Status of Refugees, in particular their implementation in a manner fully compatible with the object and purpose of those instruments, and noting with satisfaction that one hundred and thirty-two States are now parties to one or both instruments,

Commending the High Commissioner and her staff for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

Paying tribute to those staff members who have endangered or lost their lives in the course of their duties, and emphasizing the urgent need for effective measures to ensure the security of staff engaged in humanitarian operations,

Distressed at the widespread violations of the principle of non-refoulement and of the rights of refugees, in some cases resulting in the loss of their lives, and seriously disturbed at reports indicating that large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers have been subjected to refoulement and expulsion in highly dangerous situations,

1. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to the problem of refugees and the need for States to cooperate fully with the Office in order to facilitate the effective exercise of that function;

2. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to accede or succeed to and to implement fully the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees and relevant regional refugee instruments, as applicable, for the protection of refugees;

3. *Reiterates* that everyone, without distinction of any kind, has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution, and calls upon all States to uphold asylum as an indispensable instrument for the international protection of refugees and to respect scrupulously the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, which is not subject to derogation;

4. *Urges* States to ensure access, consistent with relevant international and regional instruments, for all asylum-seekers to fair and efficient procedures for the determination of refugee status and the granting of asylum to eligible persons;

5. *Deplores* the fact that in certain situations refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner have been subjected to armed attack, murder, rape and other violations of or threats to their personal security and other fundamental rights, and calls upon States to

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[93] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/51/12).

[94] A/51/12/Add.1 and Corr.1; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 12A.*

[95] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[96] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and the humane treatment of asylum-seekers in accordance with internationally recognized human rights and humanitarian norms;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring access by the Office of the High Commissioner to asylum-seekers, refugees and other persons of concern in order to enable it to carry out its protection functions in an effective manner, expresses deep concern at conditions in a number of countries or regions that seriously impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection, and calls upon States to take all necessary measures to ensure such access and to ensure the security of staff engaged in humanitarian operations;

7. *Reiterates* its support for the role of the Office of the High Commissioner in exploring further measures to ensure international protection to all who need it, consistent with fundamental protection principles reflected in international instruments, and supports the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in continuing further consultations and discussions in this regard;

8. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue and strengthen its efforts for the protection of women having a well-founded fear of persecution, and calls upon States to adopt an approach that is sensitive to gender-related concerns and ensures that women whose claims to refugee status are based upon a well-founded fear of persecution, including persecution through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution, are recognized as refugees for reasons enumerated in the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol;

9. *Urges* all States and relevant United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the High Commissioner's search for durable solutions to refugee problems, including voluntary repatriation, integration in the country of asylum and resettlement in a third country, as appropriate, and welcomes in particular the ongoing efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to pursue, whenever possible, opportunities to promote conditions conducive to the preferred solution of voluntary repatriation;

10. *Underlines* the interrelationship between protection and solutions, as well as the desirability of prevention, including through respect for human rights and the implementation of relevant instruments and standards, and emphasizes the responsibility of States to resolve refugee situations and to ensure conditions that do not compel people to flee in fear, to uphold the institution of asylum, to create conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation, to take steps to meet essential humanitarian needs and to cooperate with countries on whom the large-scale presence of refugees weighs most heavily;

11. *Acknowledges* the desirability of comprehensive approaches by the international community to the problems of refugees and displaced persons, including addressing root causes, strengthening emergency preparedness and response, providing effective protection and achieving durable solutions;

12. *Emphasizes* the value of comprehensive, regional approaches in which the High Commissioner has played a significant part both in countries of origin and countries of asylum, encourages States, in coordination and cooperation with each other and with international organizations, if applicable, to consider adopting protection-based comprehensive approaches to particular problems of displacement, and endorses, in this connection, the conclusion on comprehensive and regional approaches within a protection framework adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its forty-seventh session;

13. *Recalls* that the Office of the High Commissioner may be called upon by the appropriate organs of the United Nations and with the consent of the State concerned to extend its assistance to other groups, such as internally displaced persons, recognizing that such involvement may contribute to the prevention or mitigation of refugee situations, yet emphasizing that activities on behalf of internally displaced persons must not undermine the institution of asylum, including the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution;

14. *Reiterates* the relationship between safeguarding human rights and preventing refugee situations, recognizes that the effective promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through institutions that sustain the rule of law, justice and accountability, are essential for States to fulfil their humanitarian responsibilities in reintegrating returning refugees, and, in this connection, calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner, within its mandate and at the request of the Government concerned, to strengthen its support of national efforts at legal and judicial capacity-building, where necessary, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

15. *Also reiterates* that development and rehabilitation assistance is essential in addressing some of the causes of refugee situations and in the context of the development of prevention strategies;

16. *Reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation is the ideal solution to refugee problems, and calls upon countries of origin, countries of asylum, the Office of the High Commissioner and the international community as a whole to do everything possible to enable refugees to exercise their right to return home in safety and dignity;

17. *Reiterates* the right of all persons to return to their country, and emphasizes in this regard the prime responsibility of countries of origin for establishing conditions that allow voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety and with dignity, and, in recognition of the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon all States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have sought asylum but have been determined not to be refugees;

18. *Encourages* the High Commissioner to continue her activities on behalf of stateless persons, as part of her statutory function of providing international protection and of seeking preventive action, as well as her responsibilities under General

Assembly resolutions 3274 (XXIV) of 10 December 1974 and 31/36 of 30 November 1976, and calls upon States to assist the High Commissioner in fulfilling her responsibilities and to consider acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[97] and the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness;[98]

19. *Reaffirms* that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee is the primary mechanism for inter-agency decisions on system-wide policy issues relating to humanitarian assistance, for formulating a coherent and timely response to major disasters and complex emergencies and for inter-agency decisions of an operational nature, and calls upon members of the Standing Committee to continue to examine, as a matter of priority, options and proposals to improve its functioning;

20. *Calls upon* all Governments and other donors to demonstrate their international solidarity and burden-sharing with countries of asylum through efforts aimed at continuing to alleviate the burden borne by States that have received large numbers of refugees, in particular developing countries and those with limited resources, to contribute to the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the effects on countries of asylum of the increasing requirements of large refugee populations and the need to widen the donor base and to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and other displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are met.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/76. The girl child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/154 of 21 December 1995 and its resolutions 50/42 of 8 December and 50/203 of 22 December 1995 concerning the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,

Recalling also the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[99] the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[100] held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[101] held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights,[102] held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s of the World Summit for Children,[103] held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, the World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs[104] adopted at the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, from 5 to 9 March 1990,

Welcoming with satisfaction the adoption and dissemination of the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children,[105] held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, which constitute an important contribution to the global efforts aimed at the eradication of such practices,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the mid-decade review of progress made in achieving the goals of the World Summit for Children,[106]

Welcoming the report of the expert of the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children,[107]

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition, physical and mental health care and to girls enjoying fewer rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices such as incest, early marriage, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Reaffirming the equal rights of women and men as enshrined in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[108] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[109]

1. *Urges* all States to take all necessary measures and to institute legal reforms to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to take effective action against violations of those rights and freedoms;

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[97] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 360, No. 5158.

[98] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

[99] A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[100] A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[101] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[102] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[103] See A/45/625, annex.

[104] *Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990*, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990, appendix 1 and 2.

[105] A/51/385, annex.

[106] A/51/256.

[107] See A/51/306 and Add.1.

[108] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[109] Resolution 44/25, annex.

2. *Also urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation protecting girls from all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, and to develop age-appropriate safe and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence;

3. *Calls upon* all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively:

(*a*) To set goals and to develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies to address the rights and needs of children, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to take into account the rights and particular needs of the girl child, especially in education, health and nutrition, and to eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against the girl child;

(*b*) To generate social support for the enforcement of laws on the minimum legal age for marriage, in particular by providing educational opportunities for girls;

(*c*) To give attention to the rights and needs of adolescent girls, which call for special action for their protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, harmful cultural practices, teenage pregnancy and vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and for the development of life skills and self-esteem, reaffirming that the advancement and empowerment of women throughout the life cycle must begin with the girl child at all ages;

(*d*) To take measures to increase awareness of the potential of the girl child and to promote gender-sensitive socialization of boys and girls from early childhood, aimed at achieving gender equality, development and peace within the family and the community;

(*e*) To ensure the equal participation of girls and young women on the basis of non-discrimination and as partners with boys and young men in social, economic and political life and in the development of strategies and the implementation of action aimed at achieving gender equality, development and peace;

(*f*) To strengthen and reorient health education and health services, in particular primary health care programmes, including sexual and reproductive health, and to design quality health programmes that meet the physical and mental needs of girls and attend to the needs of young expectant and nursing mothers;

4. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

5. *Also urges* States to eliminate all barriers so as to enable girls, without exception, to develop their full potential and skills through equal access to education and training;

6. *Encourages* States to consider ways and means to ensure the continuing education of married women, pregnant women and young mothers;

7. *Urges* States to take special measures for the protection of children, in particular to protect girls from rape and other forms of sexual abuse and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict, in line with the recommendations of the expert appointed by the Secretary-General to study the impact of armed conflict on children;

8. *Urges* States parties to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual trafficking and child prostitution;

9. *Urges* States to implement measures to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, in line with the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences;[110]

10. *Requests* all States to implement, on an urgent basis, measures to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation, including measures in line with those outlined in the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child, especially in education, health and nutrition, and eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against the girl child in the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001;[111]

12. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights, while considering, in accordance with the agreed conclusions 1996/1 of the Economic and Social Council,[112] its input to the Commission on the Status of Women on ensuring women's equal enjoyment of human rights relating to economic

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[110] See E/CN.4/1996/53 and Add.1 and 2.

[111] E/1993/43, annex.

[112] See A/51/3 (Part I), chap. III, sect. A; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3.*

resources, to pay particular attention to all the human rights of the girl child;

13. *Calls upon* States and international and non-governmental organizations to mobilize all necessary resources, support and efforts to realize the goals, strategic objectives and actions set out in the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

14. *Calls upon* all States, all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to implement commitments to goals and actions relating to the girl child and to report on initiatives and progress to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session, pursuant to the decision of the Commission to review the progress made in the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women relating to the girl child in 1998.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/77. The rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/153 of 21 December 1995, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/85 of 24 April 1996,[113]

Encouraged by the widespread commitment and political will shown by the unprecedented number of States that have become parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[114] while noting that the goal of achieving universal ratification by 1995 was not reached,

Seriously concerned about those reservations to the Convention which are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international treaty law, and recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,[115] held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, urges States to withdraw such reservations,

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which states that national and international mechanisms and programmes should be strengthened for the defence and protection of children, in particular the girl child, abandoned children, street children, economically and sexually exploited children, including through child pornography, child prostitution or sale of organs, children victims of diseases, including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, refugee and displaced children, children in detention, children in armed conflict and children victims of famine, drought and other emergencies, and also requires measures against female infanticide and harmful child labour,

Reaffirming also that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

Noting with appreciation the important work carried out by the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the expert designated by the Secretary-General to undertake the study on the impact of armed conflict on children,

Recognizing the valuable work done by relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of inadequate social and economic conditions, poverty, natural disasters, armed conflicts, displacement, exploitation, racism and all forms of intolerance, unemployment, rural-to-urban migration, illiteracy, hunger, disability and drug abuse, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Recognizing that legislation per se is not enough to prevent violations of the rights of the child, that stronger political commitment is needed and that Governments should implement their laws and complement legislative measures with effective action, *inter alia,* in the fields of law enforcement and the administration of justice and in social, educational and public health programmes,

Recalling the recommendation made by the World Conference on Human Rights that matters relating to human rights and the situation of children be regularly reviewed and monitored by all relevant organs and mechanisms of the United Nations system and by supervisory bodies of the specialized agencies in accordance with their mandates,[116]

I

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

1. *Welcomes* the unprecedented number of one hundred and eighty-seven States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a universal commitment to the rights of the child;

2. *Urges once again* all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority, with a view to reaching the goal of universal adherence established by the World Summit for Children,[117] held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, and reiterated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

3. *Reaffirms* that all States have a duty to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various

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[113] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3,* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[114] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[115] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[116] Ibid., chap. III, sect. II, para. 51.

[117] See A/45/625, annex.

international instruments, and, in this regard, emphasizes the importance of the full implementation by States parties of the provisions of the Convention;

4. *Urges* States parties to the Convention which have made reservations to review the compatibility of their reservations with article 51 of the Convention and other relevant rules of international law, with the aim of withdrawing them;

5. *Also urges* States parties to the Convention to accept the amendment to paragraph 2 of article 43 of the Convention, which would increase the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from ten to eighteen experts;

6. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,[118] submitted pursuant to article 44, paragraph 5, of the Convention, and notes with appreciation the constructive role played by the Committee in creating awareness of the principles and provisions of the Convention and in providing recommendations to States parties on its implementation;

7. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to ensure that the education of the child shall be carried out in accordance with article 29 of the Convention and that the education be directed, *inter alia*, to the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, for the Charter of the United Nations and for different cultures and to the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of the sexes and friendship among peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;

8. *Also calls upon* States parties to the Convention, in accordance with their obligation under article 42 of the Convention, to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known to adults and children alike;

9. *Stresses* that the implementation of the Convention contributes to the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children as emphasized in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress at mid-decade on implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990 on the World Summit for Children;[119]

II

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY ARMED CONFLICT

10. *Invites* all States to accede to relevant international human rights and humanitarian instruments, and urges them to implement those to which they are parties;

11. *Urges* States and other parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law;

12. *Calls upon* States fully to respect the provisions contained in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[120] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[121] as well as those contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which accord children affected by armed conflict special protection and treatment;

13. *Welcomes* the report of the expert of the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children,[122] and takes note with appreciation of the recommendations included therein which address the prevention of the involvement of children in armed conflict, the reinforcement of preventive measures, the relevance and adequacy of existing standards, the measures required to improve the protection of children affected by armed conflict and the actions needed to promote the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children affected by armed conflict;

14. *Notes with interest* the participatory process through which the report of the expert was prepared in close collaboration with Member States and United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the report of the expert is disseminated as widely as possible among Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as within the United Nations system;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the recommendations contained therein concerning the situation of children affected by armed conflict;[123]

17. *Welcomes* resolution CM/Res.1659 (LXIV) on the plight of African children in situations of armed conflict adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996;[124]

18. *Recommends* that States parties to the Convention promote wide dissemination and awareness of relevant standards on the rights of the child and develop education and training activities on the rights of the child as a measure to ensure the protection of children affected by armed conflict;

19. *Calls upon* States and United Nations bodies and organizations to treat children in situations of armed conflict as a priority concern in human rights, humanitarian and development activities, including in field operations and country programmes, to enhance coordination and cooperation throughout the United Nations system and to ensure effective protection for children affected by armed conflict;

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[118] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/51/41).

[119] A/51/256.

[120] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[121] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[122] A/51/306 and Add.1.

[123] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/51/41), chap. I, sect. C. 1.

[124] See A/51/524, annex I.

20. *Calls upon* the executive boards of relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and other competent bodies to explore ways and means by which they can contribute more effectively to the protection of children in armed conflict;

21. *Recommends* that the humanitarian concerns relating to children affected by armed conflict and their protection be fully reflected in United Nations field operations, which, *inter alia*, promote peace, prevent and resolve conflicts and implement peace agreements;

22. *Underlines* the importance of including measures to ensure respect for the rights of the child, including in the areas of health and nutrition, education, physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration, within emergency and other humanitarian assistance policies and programmes;

23. *Stresses* the need for Governments and other parties to armed conflict to take measures, including the establishment, for example, of "days of tranquillity" and "corridors of peace", to ensure humanitarian access, the delivery of humanitarian relief and the provision of services, such as education and health, including immunization of children affected by armed conflict;

24. *Supports* the work of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the involvement of children in armed conflict, and expresses the hope that it will make further progress prior to the fifty-third session of the Commission with a view to finalizing this work;

25. *Urges* States and all other parties to armed conflict to adopt all necessary measures to end the use of children as soldiers and to ensure their demobilization and reintegration into society, including through adequate education and training, in a manner that fosters their self-respect and dignity, and invites the international community to assist in this endeavour;

26. *Calls upon* all States and relevant United Nations bodies, including the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance, to contribute on an ongoing basis to international mine-clearance efforts, and urges States to take further action to promote gender and age-appropriate mine-awareness programmes and child-centred rehabilitation, thereby reducing the number and the plight of child victims;

27. *Welcomes* international efforts aimed at restricting and prohibiting the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines;

28. *Reaffirms* that rape in the conduct of armed conflict constitutes a war crime and that under certain circumstances it constitutes a crime against humanity and an act of genocide as defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[125] and calls upon all States to take all measures required for the protection of women and children from all acts of gender-based violence, including rape, sexual exploitation and forced pregnancy, and to strengthen mechanisms to investigate and punish all those responsible and bring the perpetrators to justice;

29. *Stresses* the need for all humanitarian responses in conflict situations to emphasize the special reproductive health needs of women and girls, including those that arise from pregnancy as a result of rape, sexual mutilation, childbirth at an early age or infection with sexually transmitted diseases, as well as human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, and their access to family planning services;

30. *Urgently requests* that appropriate measures be taken by Member States and United Nations agencies, within the scope of their respective mandates, to ensure humanitarian access to children affected by armed conflict, to facilitate the extension of humanitarian assistance, including education, and to ensure the physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society of child soldiers, victims of landmines and victims of gender-based violence;

31. *Recommends* that whenever sanctions are imposed their impact on children be assessed and monitored and that humanitarian exemptions be child-focused and formulated with clear application guidelines;

32. *Recalls* the importance of preventive measures such as early warning systems, preventive diplomacy and education for peace to prevent conflicts and their negative impact on the enjoyment of the rights of the child, and urges Governments and the international community to promote sustainable human development;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with Member States, international organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, to consider modalities for organizing regional training programmes for members of the armed forces relating to the protection of children and women during armed conflict;

34. *Invites* Governments to integrate into their military programmes, including those for peacekeeping personnel, instruction on their responsibilities towards civilian communities and in particular towards women and children;

35. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General appoint for a period of three years a Special Representative on the impact of armed conflict on children and ensure that the necessary support is made available to the Special Representative for the effective performance of his/her mandate, encourages the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights to provide support to the Special Representative, and calls upon States and institutions concerned to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

36. *Recommends* that the Special Representative:

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[125] Resolution 260 A (III).

(*a*) Assess progress achieved, steps taken and difficulties encountered in strengthening the protection of children in situations of armed conflict;

(*b*) Raise awareness and promote the collection of information about the plight of children affected by armed conflict and encourage the development of networking;

(*c*) Work closely with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other competent bodies, as well as non-governmental organizations;

(*d*) Foster international cooperation to ensure respect for children's rights in these situations and contribute to the coordination of efforts by Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, notably the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the specialized agencies and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, relevant special rapporteurs and working groups, as well as United Nations field operations, regional and subregional organizations, other competent bodies and non-governmental organizations;

37. *Requests* the Special Representative to submit to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights an annual report containing relevant information on the situation of children affected by armed conflict, bearing in mind existing mandates and reports of relevant bodies;

38. *Requests* Governments, the specialized agencies, relevant United Nations organs and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the Committee on the Rights of the Child, other relevant human rights treaty bodies and human rights mechanisms, to cooperate with the Special Representative and to provide information on the measures adopted to ensure and respect the rights of children affected by armed conflict;

39. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to consider how the impact of armed conflict on children can best be integrated into events designed to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Children and the entry into force of the Convention;

III

REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILDREN

40. *Urges* Governments to pay particular attention to the situation of refugee and internally displaced children by continuing to design and improve the implementation of policies for their care and well-being with the necessary international cooperation, in particular that of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Children's Fund;

41. *Calls upon* States and United Nations bodies, in recognizing the particular vulnerability of refugee and internally displaced children, to protect both their safety and their developmental needs, including health, education and psychosocial rehabilitation;

42. *Calls upon* States and United Nations bodies and other organizations to ensure the early identification and registration of unaccompanied refugee and internally displaced children and to give priority to programmes for family tracing and reunification;

43. *Calls* for the continual monitoring of the care arrangements of unaccompanied refugee and internally displaced children;

44. *Calls upon* States and other parties to armed conflict to recognize the particular vulnerability of refugee and internally displaced children to recruitment into the armed forces and to sexual violence, exploitation and abuse and to enhance protection and assistance mechanisms;

45. *Calls upon* the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to adopt all necessary measures to ensure the survival, assistance and protection of internally displaced children;

46. *Stresses* the special vulnerability of households headed by children, and calls upon Governments and United Nations bodies to give urgent attention to their situation and to develop policy and programme guidelines to ensure their protection and care, in the best interests of the child;

47. *Also stresses* that women and youth be fully involved in the design, delivery, monitoring and implementation of measures to protect them from sexual violence and from the recruitment of children into the armed forces;

IV

PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF THE SALE OF CHILDREN AND OF THEIR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, INCLUDING CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

48. *Welcomes* the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;[126]

49. *Expresses its support* for the work of the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Commission on Human Rights to examine, all over the world, the question of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary human and financial assistance to make the full discharge of the mandate possible and to enable her to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and a report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session;

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[126] See A/51/456.

51. *Supports* the work of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and expresses the hope that it will make further progress prior to the fifty-third session of the Commission with a view to finalizing this work;

52. *Calls upon* all States parties to fulfil their obligation under article 34 of the Convention, and also calls upon all States to support efforts in the context of the United Nations system aimed at adopting effective national, bilateral and multilateral measures for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography, in particular by criminalizing the sexual exploitation of children;

53. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Sweden for organizing it, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund, End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism and the Non-Governmental Organizations Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

54. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the adoption and dissemination of the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children,[127] which constitutes an important contribution to the global efforts aimed at the eradication of such practices;

55. *Requests* all States to implement on an urgent basis measures to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation, including measures in line with those outlined in the Declaration and Agenda for Action;

56. *Calls upon* States to criminalize the commercial sexual exploitation of children and the other forms of sexual exploitation of children and to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, whether local or foreign, while ensuring that children victims of this practice are not penalized;

57. *Also calls upon* States to review and revise, where appropriate, laws, policies, programmes and practices to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children;

58. *Further calls upon* States to enforce relevant laws, policies and programmes to protect children from sexual exploitation, in particular by penalizing all those offenders involved, and to strengthen communication and cooperation between law enforcement authorities;

59. *Stresses* the need to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices against children;

60. *Urges* States, in cases of sex tourism, to develop or strengthen and to implement laws to criminalize the acts of nationals of the countries of origin when committed against children in the countries of destination, to ensure that a person who exploits a child for sexual abuse purposes in another country is prosecuted by competent national authorities, either in the country of origin or in the country of destination, to strengthen laws and law enforcement, including confiscation and seizure of assets and profits and other sanctions, against those who commit sexual crimes against children in countries of destination and to share relevant data;

61. *Requests* States to step up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking in children;

62. *Invites* States to allocate resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and to rehabilitate into society child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, including through job training, legal assistance and confidential health care, and to take all appropriate measures to promote their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration;

63. *Stresses* the need to strengthen partnerships between Governments, international organizations and all sectors of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in order to achieve these objectives;

V

ELIMINATION OF EXPLOITATION OF CHILD LABOUR

64. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to ratify and implement the conventions of the International Labour Organization relating to the elimination of exploitation of child labour, in particular those concerning the minimum age for employment, the abolition of forced labour and the prohibition of particularly hazardous work for children;

65. *Calls upon* Governments to take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the protection of children from economic exploitation, in particular protection from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;

66. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures, as a matter of priority, to eliminate all extreme forms of child labour, such as forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery;

67. *Encourages*, in particular, Governments to take the necessary legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to provide for a minimum age or minimum ages for admission to employment, appropriate regulations of the hours and conditions of employment and appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of these measures;

68. *Invites* Governments, in accordance with the commitments made at the World Summit for Social

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[127] A/51/385, annex.

Development held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[128] to set specific target dates for eliminating all forms of child labour which are contrary to accepted international standards, to ensure the full enforcement of relevant existing laws and, where appropriate, to enact the legislation necessary to implement obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[128] and International Labour Organization standards ensuring the protection of working children;

69. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen international cooperation, including through the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour of the International Labour Organization and the activities of the United Nations Children's Fund, as a means of assisting Governments in preventing or combating violations of the rights of the child, including the exploitation of child labour;

70. *Recognizes* the measures taken by Governments to eliminate the exploitation of child labour, and calls upon relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Labour Organization, to support national efforts in this regard;

71. *Requests* that measures be taken by Governments, at the national and international levels, within the framework of multisectoral approaches, to end the exploitation of child labour in line with the commitments undertaken at the World Summit for Social Development and at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[129] held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and taking into account the results of other relevant United Nations conferences;

72. *Calls upon* Governments to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of child labour and to implement, *inter alia*, national action plans and the International Labour Organization resolution on the elimination of child labour, adopted on 18 June 1996 by the International Labour Conference at its eighty-third session at Geneva, as well as other relevant resolutions on the subject adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights;

73. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when reporting on the implementation of the present resolution, to cooperate closely and at an early stage with relevant actors and United Nations organizations and bodies, in particular the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, in order to provide information on initiatives aimed at eliminating exploitation of child labour and to recommend ways and means of improving cooperation at the national and international levels in this field;

VI

THE PLIGHT OF STREET CHILDREN

74. *Expresses grave concern* at the continued growth in the number of incidents worldwide and at reports of children living or working on the streets being involved in and affected by serious crime, drug abuse, violence and prostitution;

75. *Urges* Governments to continue actively to seek comprehensive solutions to tackle the problems of children living or working on the streets, to take measures to ensure their reintegration into society and to provide, *inter alia*, adequate nutrition, shelter, health care and education, taking into account the fact that such children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of abuse, exploitation and neglect;

76. *Strongly urges* all Governments to guarantee the respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the right to life, to take urgent measures to prevent the killing of street children and to combat torture and violence against them and to ensure that legal and juridical processes respect children's rights in order to protect them against the arbitrary deprivation of liberty, maltreatment or abuse;

77. *Emphasizes* that strict compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights instruments constitutes a significant step towards solving the problems of children living or working on the streets, including problems of exploitation, abuse and abandonment of children, and recommends that the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant treaty monitoring bodies give attention to this growing problem when examining reports of States parties;

78. *Calls upon* the international community to support, through effective international cooperation, the efforts of States to improve the situation of children in need of special protection measures, including child well-being in urban settlements, in accordance with the Habitat Agenda adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996,[130] and encourages States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in preparing their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to bear this problem in mind and to consider requesting technical advice and assistance for initiatives aimed at improving the situation of street children, in accordance with article 45 of the Convention;

VII

79. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, relevant mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with one another to ensure greater awareness and more effective action to solve the problem of children living in exceptionally difficult conditions by, among other measures, initiating and supporting development projects

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[128] See A/CONF.166/9.

[129] See A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.

[130] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

that can have a positive impact on the situation of those children;

80. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

81. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the rights of the child to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the problems of exploitation of child labour, its causes and consequences, in accordance with paragraph 73 above;

82. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/78. International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, as well as those of the Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling also that the goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health and that the theme of the Decade is "Indigenous people: partnership in action",

Recognizing the importance of consultation and cooperation with indigenous people in planning and implementing the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People,[131] the need for adequate financial support from the international community, including support from within the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and the need for adequate coordination and communication channels,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 1992/255 of 20 July 1992, in which the Council requested United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies to ensure that all technical assistance financed or provided by them was compatible with international instruments and standards applicable to indigenous people and encouraged efforts to promote coordination in this field and greater participation of indigenous people in the planning and implementation of projects affecting them,

Recalling its resolution 50/156 of 21 December 1995,

1. *Affirms its conviction* of the value and diversity of the cultures and forms of social organization of indigenous people and that the development of indigenous people within their countries will contribute to the socio-economic, cultural and environmental advancement of all the countries of the world;

2. *Notes* that the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People may be reviewed and updated throughout the Decade and that at the mid-point of the Decade the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should review the results of the activities in order to identify obstacles to the achievement of the goals of the Decade and to recommend solutions for overcoming those obstacles;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade;[132]

4. *Welcomes* the resolve of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen efforts to achieve the goals of the programme of activities for the Decade;

5. *Reaffirms* the adoption of a declaration on the rights of indigenous people as a major objective of the Decade, and notes that there have been two sessions of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights established pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995[133] with the sole purpose of elaborating a draft declaration, considering the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples annexed to resolution 1994/45 of 26 August 1994 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;[134]

6. *Underlines* the importance of effective participation by indigenous representatives in the working group, and encourages organizations of indigenous people that are not already registered to participate and wish to do so to apply for authorization in accordance with the procedure set out in the annex to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32;

7. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous people,[135] and requests the Secretary-General to transmit the review, prior to the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights, to

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[131] Resolution 50/157, annex.

[132] A/51/499.

[133] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[134] See E/CN.4/1995/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/56, chap. II, sect. A.

[135] A/51/493.

Governments, indigenous people and relevant international organizations for their comments;

8. *Recognizes* amongst the objectives of the Decade, as listed in the programme of activities, the consideration of the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system;

9. *Recalls* its recommendation contained in resolution 50/157 of 21 December 1995 that the Commission on Human Rights, drawing on the results of the workshop on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system, held at Copenhagen from 26 to 28 June 1995,[136] and the Secretary-General's review, consider the convening of a second workshop;

10. *Recommends* in the light of the review that efforts be made to ensure that relevant United Nations organs, organizations and bodies take part in any further consultations on the issue, and welcomes the offer of the Government of Chile to host a second workshop on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system;

11. *Emphasizes* the important role of international cooperation in promoting the goals and activities of the Decade and the rights, well-being and sustainable development of indigenous people;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of strengthening the human and institutional capacity of indigenous people to develop their own solutions to their problems and, for these purposes, its recommendation that the United Nations University consider the possibility of sponsoring, in each region, one or more institutions of higher education as centres of excellence and the diffusion of expertise, and invites the Commission on Human Rights to recommend appropriate means of implementation;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of action at the national level for the implementation of the goals and activities of the Decade;

14. *Encourages* Governments to support the Decade by:

(*a*) Contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Decade;

(*b*) Preparing relevant programmes, plans and reports in relation to the Decade, in consultation with indigenous people;

(*c*) Seeking means, in consultation with indigenous people, of giving indigenous people greater responsibility for their own affairs and an effective voice in decisions on matters that affect them;

(*d*) Establishing national committees or other mechanisms involving indigenous people to ensure that the objectives and activities of the Decade are planned and implemented on the basis of full partnership with indigenous people;

15. *Also encourages* Governments and other donors to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations in order to assist indigenous representatives in participating in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights charged with elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people;

16. *Appeals* to Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the Decade by identifying resources for activities designed to implement the goals of the Decade, in cooperation with indigenous people;

17. *Invites* the United Nations financial and developmental institutions, operational programmes and the specialized agencies, in accordance with the existing procedures of their governing bodies:

(*a*) To give increased priority and resources to improving the conditions of indigenous people, with particular emphasis on the needs of those people in developing countries, including by preparation of specific programmes of action for the implementation of the goals of the Decade, within their areas of competence;

(*b*) To launch special projects through appropriate channels and in collaboration with indigenous people for strengthening their community-level initiatives and to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise amongst indigenous people and other relevant experts;

(*c*) To designate focal points for coordination with the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat of activities related to the Decade;

18. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General ensure coordinated follow-up to the recommendations concerning indigenous people of relevant world conferences, namely, the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janiero, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995;

19. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, when developing programmes within the framework of the United Nations Human Rights Education Decade, to give due regard to the dissemination of information on the situation, cultures, languages, rights and aspirations of indigenous people;

20. *Encourages* Governments to consider contributing, as appropriate, to the Fund for the Development of Indigenous

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[136] E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1995/7 and Add.1-3.

Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, in support of the achievement of the goals of the Decade;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/79. Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/135 of 21 December 1995, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/21 of 19 April 1996,[137]

Bearing in mind the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, and, in particular, the attention given in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[138] to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Aware that racism, being one of the exclusionist phenomena plaguing many societies, requires resolute action and cooperation for its eradication,

Having examined the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,[139] including his conclusions and recommendations,

Deeply concerned that, despite continuing efforts, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as acts of violence, continue to persist and even grow in magnitude, incessantly adopting new forms, including tendencies to establish policies based on racial, religious, ethnic, cultural and national superiority or exclusivity,

Conscious of the fundamental difference between, on the one hand, racism and racial discrimination as governmental policy or resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity and, on the other hand, other manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance which are increasingly visible in segments of many societies and perpetrated by individuals or groups, some of which are directed against migrant workers and members of their families,

Taking note of the final report on freedom of opinion and expression submitted to the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-fourth session by the Special Rapporteurs Mr. Louis Joinet and Mr. Danilo Turk, in which the Special Rapporteurs concluded that, under international law, racism is not an opinion but an offence,[140]

Noting that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its general recommendation XV (42) of 17 March 1993[141] on article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, held that the prohibition of the dissemination of all ideas based upon racial superiority or racial hatred was compatible with the right to freedom of opinion and expression as outlined in article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[142] and in article 5 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[143]

Conscious that impunity for crimes motivated by racist and xenophobic attitudes plays a role in weakening the rule of law and tends to encourage the recurrence of such crimes,

Underlining the importance of creating conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance within societies,

Regretting that the Special Rapporteur has continued to encounter difficulties in his efforts to fulfil his mandate, owing to the lack of necessary resources,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;[139]

2. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue his exchange of views with Member States, relevant mechanisms, related United Nations organs and specialized agencies in order to further their effectiveness and mutual cooperation;

3. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur to convene, without further delay, a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to include the question of immigration and xenophobia on its agenda;[144]

4. *Expresses its profound concern at and unequivocal condemnation* of all forms of racism and all racist violence, including related acts of random and indiscriminate violence;

5. *Expresses its deep concern at and condemnation* of manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrant workers and members of their families and other vulnerable groups in many societies;

6. *Encourages* all States, in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur in his report, to include in their educational curricula and social programmes, at all levels as appropriate, knowledge, tolerance and respect for foreign cultures, peoples and countries;

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[137] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[138] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[139] See A/51/301.

[140] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/9 and Add.1.

[141] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/48/18), chap. VIII, sect. B.

[142] Resolution 217 A (III).

[143] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[144] See A/51/301, para. 57.

7. *Encourages* the efforts of Governments to take measures aimed at the eradication of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

8. *Categorically condemns* any role played by print, audio-visual or electronic media in inciting acts of violence motivated by racial hatred;

9. *Recognizes* that Governments should implement and enforce legislation to prevent acts of racism and racial discrimination;

10. *Calls upon* all Governments and intergovernmental organizations, with the assistance of non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to continue to cooperate with and to supply relevant information to the Special Rapporteur;

11. *Commends* non-governmental organizations for their action against racism and racial discrimination and for their continuous support and assistance to the victims of racism and racial discrimination;

12. *Urges* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, with a view to enabling him to fulfil his mandate;

13. *Once again requests* the Secretary-General to provide, without any further delay, the Special Rapporteur, as in the case of other Special Rapporteurs, with all the necessary human and financial assistance to enable him to carry out his mandate efficiently, effectively and expeditiously and to submit, in a timely manner, an interim report on this question to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/80. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and its resolutions on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[145]

Reiterating the importance of the Convention, which is one of the most widely accepted human rights instruments adopted under the auspices of the United Nations,

Reiterating once again the need to intensify the struggle for the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination throughout the world, especially its most brutal forms,

Aware of the importance of the contributions of the Committee to the efforts of the United Nations to combat racism and all other forms of discrimination based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin,

Emphasizing the obligation of all States parties to the Convention to take legislative, judicial and other measures to secure full implementation of the provisions of the Convention,

Expressing its satisfaction at the entry into force on 3 December 1982 of the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals under article 14 of the Convention,

Bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[146] in particular section II. B. relating to equality, dignity and tolerance, and General Assembly resolution 50/201 of 22 December 1995, in particular paragraph 9 thereof,

Recalling its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992, in which it welcomed the decision, taken on 15 January 1992 at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to amend paragraph 6 of article 8 of the Convention and to add a new paragraph, as paragraph 7 of article 8, with a view to providing for the financing of the Committee from the regular budget of the United Nations, and concerned that an amendment to the Convention has not yet entered into force,

Welcoming efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure interim financial arrangements for the financing of the expenses incurred by the Committee,

Recalling the provisions of paragraph 4 of article 10 of the Convention regarding the location of the meetings of the Committee,

Stressing the importance of enabling the Committee to function smoothly and to have all necessary facilities for the effective performance of its functions under the Convention,

I

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the work of its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions;[147]

2. *Commends* the Committee for its work with regard to the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

3. *Calls upon* States parties to fulfil their obligation, under paragraph 1 of article 9 of the Convention, to submit in due time their periodic reports on measures taken to implement the Convention;

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[145] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[146] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[147] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/51/18).

4. *Commends* the Committee on its working methods, including its procedure for reviewing the implementation of the Convention in States whose initial and periodic reports are overdue and the formulating of concluding observations on reports of States parties to the Convention;

5. *Commends* the Committee for its contribution to the prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning measures and urgent procedures, and welcomes its relevant action thereon;

6. *Encourages* the Committee to contribute fully to the implementation of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and its revised Programme of Action,[148] including by the continued collaboration between the Committee and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

7. *Welcomes* the cooperation and exchange of information between the Committee and relevant structures and mechanisms of the United Nations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the process of establishing liaisons with other international organizations;

II

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;[149]

9. *Expresses its profound concern* at the fact that a number of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination have still not fulfilled their financial obligations, as shown in the report of the Secretary-General, and strongly appeals to all States parties which are in arrears to fulfil their outstanding financial obligations under paragraph 6 of article 8 of the Convention;

10. *Urges* States parties to accelerate their domestic ratification procedures with regard to the amendment to the Convention regarding the financing of the Committee and expeditiously to notify the Secretary-General in writing of their agreement to the amendment, as decided upon at the Fourteenth Meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 15 January 1992, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992 and further reiterated at the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties on 16 January 1996;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure adequate financial arrangements and appropriate means to ensure the functioning of the Committee;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite those States parties that are in arrears to pay the amounts in arrears and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

13. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-second session, under the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination", the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee and the report of the Committee;

III

STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;[150]

15. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the number of States that have ratified the Convention or acceded thereto;

16. *Reaffirms once again its conviction* that ratification of or accession to the Convention on a universal basis and implementation of its provisions are necessary for the realization of the objectives of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and for action beyond the Decade;

17. *Requests* those States that have not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or accede thereto;

18. *Encourages* States to limit the extent of any reservation they lodge to the Convention and to formulate any reservation as precisely and as narrowly as possible while ensuring that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international law;

19. *Requests* the States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider the possibility of making the declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report concerning the status of the Convention, in accordance with resolution 2106 A (XX) of 21 December 1965.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/81. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the objectives set forth in the Charter of the United Nations of achieving international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

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[148] Resolution 49/146, annex.

[149] A/51/430.

[150] A/51/435.

Reaffirming also its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate totally and unconditionally racism, in all its forms, and racial discrimination,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[151] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[152] and the Convention against Discrimination in Education adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 December 1960,[153]

Recalling also the outcome of the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva in 1978 and 1983,

Welcoming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, and, in particular, the attention given in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[154] to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Stressing the importance of the activities of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling its resolutions 48/91 of 20 December 1993 and 49/146 of 23 December 1994, by which, respectively, it proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and adopted the revised Programme of Action for the Third Decade,

Noting with grave concern that, despite the efforts of the international community, the principal objectives of the two previous Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination have not been attained and that millions of human beings continue to this day to be the victims of varied forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Noting with great concern that, despite the efforts undertaken by the international community at various levels, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, ethnic antagonism and acts of violence are showing signs of increase,

Noting with concern that technological developments in the field of communications, including computer networks such as the Internet, have been used for dissemination of racist and xenophobic propaganda throughout the world,

Having considered the reports submitted by the Secretary-General[155] within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade,

Firmly convinced of the need to take more effective and sustained measures at the national and international levels for the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening national legislation and institutions for the promotion of racial harmony,

Deeply concerned about the fact that the phenomenon of racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers continues to increase despite efforts undertaken by the international community to improve the protection of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families,

Recalling the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[156] at its forty-fifth session,

Acknowledging that indigenous people are at times victims of particular forms of racism and racial discrimination,

1. *Declares once again* that all forms of racism and racial discrimination, whether in their institutionalized form or resulting from official doctrine of racial superiority or exclusivity, such as ethnic cleansing, are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world and must be combated by all available means;

2. *Recalls with satisfaction* the proclamation of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which began in 1993, and requests the Secretary-General to make a further review of the Programme of Action with a view to making it more effective and action-oriented;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to cooperate more closely with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to enable him to fulfil his mandate;

4. *Urges* all Governments to take all necessary measures to combat new forms of racism, in particular by adapting constantly the means provided to combat them, especially in the legislative, administrative, educational and information fields;

5. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to give priority, through the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, to the follow-up of programmes and activities for combating racism and racial discrimination;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to accord special attention to the situation of migrant workers and

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[151] Resolution 217 A (III).

[152] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[153] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 429, No. 6193.

[154] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[155] E/1996/83 and A/51/541.

[156] Resolution 45/158, annex.

members of their families and to include regularly in his reports all information on such workers;

7. *Calls upon* all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of priority;

8. *Commends* all States that have ratified or acceded to the international instruments to combat racism and racial discrimination;

9. *Encourages* the media to promote ideas of tolerance and understanding among peoples and between different cultures;

10. *Recommends* that a seminar be organized by the Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and Internet service providers, with a view to assessing the role of the Internet in the light of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination on the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers, in the fields of education, training and employment and to submit, *inter alia*, specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat the effects of that discrimination;

12. *Urges* the Secretary-General, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, all Governments, intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, in implementing the Programme of Action for the Third Decade, to pay particular attention to the situation of indigenous people;

13. *Requests* States to consider the relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council on the integrated follow-up to previous world conferences and the need to make optimum use of all available mechanisms in the struggle against racism;

14. *Strongly underlines* the importance of education as a significant means of preventing and eradicating racism and racial discrimination and of creating awareness of principles of human rights, particularly among young people, and in this regard renews its invitation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to expedite the preparation of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote teaching, training and educational activities on human rights and against racism and racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on activities at the primary and secondary levels of education;

15. *Considers* that all the parts of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade should be given equal attention in order to attain the objectives of the Decade;

16. *Regrets* the lack of interest, support and financial resources for the Third Decade and its related Programme of Action, reflected in the fact that the Centre for Human Rights has been able to organize only one seminar since the adoption of resolution 48/91 in 1993, and notes that unless a supplementary financial effort is made very few of the activities planned for the period 1994-1997 will be carried out;

17. *Considers* that voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination are indispensable for the implementation of the Programme;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary financial resources are provided for the implementation of the activities of the Third Decade during the biennium 1996-1997;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to accord the highest priority to the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, containing an analysis of information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination;

21. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly with a view to supplementing, if necessary, the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;

22. *Invites* all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to participate fully in the Third Decade;

23. *Strongly appeals* to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to this end requests the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions;

24. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to consider at its fifty-third session as a matter of priority the question of a possible world conference to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related contemporary forms of intolerance and to make appropriate recommendations through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

25. *Once again requests* the Secretary-General to consult Member States and intergovernmental as well as non-governmental organizations on the possibility of holding a world conference to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related contemporary forms of intolerance;

26. *Decides* to keep the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" on its agenda and to consider it as a matter of the highest priority at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/82. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Aware that the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, is among the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as defined in its Charter,

Recalling the International Covenants on Human Rights,[157] the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[158] the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples[159] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[160]

Recalling also the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[161]

Noting the developments in the Middle East peace process, including the mutual recognition and the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington on 13 September 1993 by the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, and the Government of Israel,[162] as well as the ensuing implementation agreements, in particular the interim agreement of 28 September 1995,

Affirming the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination;

2. *Expresses the hope* that the Palestinian people will soon be exercising their right to self-determination in the current peace process;

3. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/83. Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/150 of 23 December 1994 and 50/138 of 21 December 1995,

Recalling also all of its relevant resolutions in which, *inter alia*, it condemned any State that permitted or tolerated the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit and use of mercenaries with the objective of overthrowing the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, especially those of developing countries, or of fighting against national liberation movements, and recalling further the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Organization of African Unity,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of States and self-determination of peoples,

Alarmed and concerned about the danger which the activities of mercenaries constitute to peace and security in developing countries, particularly in Africa and in small States, where democratically elected Governments have been overthrown by mercenaries or through mercenary international criminal activities,

Deeply concerned about the loss of life, the substantial damage to property and the negative effects on the polity and economies of affected countries resulting from mercenary aggression and criminal activities,

Convinced that it is necessary for Member States to ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries,[163] adopted by the General Assembly in 1989, and to develop and maintain international cooperation among States for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of mercenary activities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination[164] concerning the use of mercenaries and mercenary-related activities to topple sovereign Governments and to violate the human rights of peoples and impede the exercise of self-determination despite resolution 50/138;

2. *Reaffirms* that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing and training are causes for grave concern to all States and violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Urges* all States to take the necessary steps and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the

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[157] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[158] Resolution 217 A (III).

[159] Resolution 1514 (XV).

[160] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[161] Resolution 50/6.

[162] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560, annex.

[163] Resolution 44/34, annex.

[164] See A/51/392.

activities of mercenaries and to take necessary legislative measures to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control, as well as their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to destabilize or overthrow the Government or threaten the territorial integrity and political unity of sovereign States or to promote secession or fight the national liberation movements struggling against colonial or other forms of alien domination or occupation;

4. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider taking necessary action to sign or to ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;

5. *Urges* all States to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate;

6. *Requests* the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, as a matter of priority, to publicize the adverse effects of mercenary activities on the right to self-determination and, when requested where necessary, to render advisory services to States that are affected by the activities of mercenaries;

7. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to report, with specific recommendations, his findings on the use of mercenaries to undermine the right of peoples to self-determination to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/84. Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights,[165] as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Welcoming the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of an increasing number of sovereign peoples and nations,

Expressing grave concern that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been and are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition,

Recalling the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth,[166] thirty-seventh,[167] thirty-eighth,[168] thirty-ninth,[169] fortieth,[170] forty-first,[171] forty-second,[172] forty-third,[173] forty-fourth,[174] forty-fifth,[175] forty-sixth,[176] forty-seventh,[177] forty-eighth,[178] forty-ninth,[179] fiftieth,[180] fifty-first[181] and fifty-second[182] sessions,

Reaffirming its resolutions 35/35 B of 14 November 1980, 36/10 of 28 October 1981, 37/42 of 3 December 1982, 38/16 of 22 November 1983, 39/18 of 23 November 1984, 40/24 of 29 November 1985, 41/100 of 4 December 1986, 42/94 of 7 December 1987, 43/105 of 8 December 1988, 44/80 of 8 December 1989, 45/131 of 14 December 1990, 46/88 of 16 December 1991, 47/83 of 16 December 1992, 48/93 of 20 December 1993, 49/148 of 23 December 1994 and 50/139 of 21 December 1995,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination,[183]

1. *Reaffirms* that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition

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[165] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[166] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/1980/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

[167] Ibid., *1981, Supplement No. 5* and corrigendum (E/1981/25 and Corr.1), chap. XXVIII, sect. A.

[168] Ibid., *1982, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1982/12 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

[169] Ibid., *1983, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/1983/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVII, sect. A.

[170] Ibid., *1984, Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[171] Ibid., *1985, Supplement No. 2* (E/1985/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[172] Ibid., *1986, Supplement No. 2* (E/1986/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[173] Ibid., *1987, Supplement No. 5* and corrigenda (E/1987/18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[174] Ibid., *1988, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1988/12 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[175] Ibid., *1989, Supplement No. 2* (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

[176] Ibid., *1990, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[177] Ibid., *1991, Supplement No. 2* (E/1991/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[178] Ibid., *1992, Supplement No. 2* (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[179] Ibid., *1993, Supplement No. 3* (E/1993/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[180] Ibid., *1994, Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1994/24 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[181] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[182] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[183] A/51/414.

for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation and promotion of such rights;

2. *Declares its firm opposition* to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world;

3. *Calls upon* those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories and all acts of repression, discrimination, exploitation and maltreatment, particularly the brutal and inhuman methods reportedly employed for the execution of those acts against the peoples concerned;

4. *Deplores* the plight of the millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of the aforementioned acts, and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and honour;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on this question to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/85. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming once more the permanent validity of the principles and norms set forth in the basic instruments regarding the international protection of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[184] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[185] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[186] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[187] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[188]

Bearing in mind the principles and norms established within the framework of the International Labour Organization and the importance of the work done in connection with migrant workers and members of their families in other specialized agencies and in various organs of the United Nations,

Reiterating that, despite the existence of an already established body of principles and norms, there is a need to make further efforts to improve the situation and to guarantee respect for the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers and members of their families,

Aware of the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and the marked increase in migratory movements that has occurred, especially in certain parts of the world,

Considering that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[189] all States are urged to guarantee the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and members of their families,

Underlining the importance of the creation and promotion of conditions to foster greater harmony and tolerance between migrant workers and the rest of the society of the State in which they reside, with the aim of eliminating the growing manifestations of racism and xenophobia taking place in segments of many societies and perpetrated by individuals or groups against migrant workers,

Recalling its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

Bearing in mind that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, States are invited to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying the Convention at the earliest possible time,

Recalling that, in its resolution 50/169 of 22 December 1995, it requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-first session a report on the status of the Convention,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the growing manifestations of racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination and inhuman or degrading treatment directed against migrant workers in different parts of the world;

2. *Welcomes* the signature or ratification of, or accession to, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by some Member States;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and expresses the hope that it will enter into force at an early date;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

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[184] Resolution 217 A (III).

[185] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[186] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[187] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[188] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[189] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

5. *Invites* the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the Convention;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[190] and requests him to submit to it at its fifty-second session an updated report on the status of the Convention;

7. *Decides* to consider the report of the Secretary-General at its fifty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Implementation of human rights instruments".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/86. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

The General Assembly,

Recalling article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[191] article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[192] the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[193] its resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and all its subsequent relevant resolutions,

Recalling its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, in which it noted with deep concern that acts of torture took place in various countries, recognized the need to provide assistance to the victims in a purely humanitarian spirit and established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture,

Recalling the recommendation in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[194] that high priority should be given to providing the necessary resources for assistance to victims of torture and effective remedies for their physical, psychological and social rehabilitation, *inter alia*, by additional contributions to the Fund,

Noting with satisfaction the existence and rapid expansion of an international network of centres for the rehabilitation of torture victims, which plays an important role in providing assistance to victims of torture, and the collaboration of the Fund with the centres,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee against Torture,[195] submitted in accordance with the provision of article 24 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

2. *Notes with appreciation* that during the present reporting period eight States have become parties to the Convention, increasing the number of States parties to one hundred;

3. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority;

4. *Invites* all States ratifying or acceding to the Convention and those States which are parties to the Convention and which have not yet done so to consider joining the States parties that have already made the declarations provided for in articles 21 and 22 of the Convention and to consider the possibility of withdrawing their reservations to article 20;

5. *Urges* States parties to comply strictly with their obligations under the Convention, including their obligation to submit reports in accordance with article 19 of the Convention, in view of the high number of reports not submitted;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the performance of his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to react appropriately to his urgent appeals;

7. *Approves* the methods of work employed by the Special Rapporteur, in particular as regards urgent appeals, reiterates his need to be able to respond effectively to credible and reliable information that comes before him, invites him to continue to seek the views and comments of all concerned, including Member States, in the elaboration of his report, and expresses its appreciation of the continuing discrete and independent way in which he carries out his work;

8. *Stresses* the need for regular exchanges of views between the Committee against Torture, the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations mechanisms and bodies, with a view to enhancing further their effectiveness and cooperation on issues relating to torture, *inter alia*, by improving their coordination;

9. *Commends* the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights for the support given to States in the preparation of national reports to the Committee;

10. *Urges* States parties to take fully into account the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee after its consideration of their reports;

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[190] A/51/415.

[191] Resolution 217 A (III).

[192] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[193] Resolution 3452 (XXX), annex.

[194] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[195] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 44* (A/51/44).

11. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of the amendments to articles 17 and 18 of the Convention as soon as possible;

12. *Encourages* the open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention to intensify its deliberations with a view to an early conclusion of its work;

13. *Expresses its gratitude and appreciation* to the Governments, organizations and individuals that have already contributed to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;

14. *Appeals* to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis and annually before the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fund and if possible also with a substantial increase in the level of contributions, so that consideration may be given to the ever-increasing demand for assistance;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to all Governments the appeals of the General Assembly for contributions to the Fund;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include the Fund on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

17. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for the work it has accomplished;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its appeal for contributions and its efforts to make better known the existence of the Fund and the financial means currently available to it, as well as in its assessment of the global need for international funding of rehabilitation services for torture victims and, in this effort, to make use of all existing possibilities, including the preparation, production and dissemination of information materials;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of adequate staff and facilities for the bodies and mechanisms that combat torture, corresponding to the strong support expressed by Member States for combating torture;

20. *Invites* donor countries and recipient countries that so agree to consider including in their bilateral programmes and projects relating to the training of armed forces and police personnel, as well as health-care personnel, matters relating to the protection of human rights and the prevention of torture;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the status of the Convention as well as a report on the operations of the Fund;

22. *Decides* to consider the reports of the Secretary-General and the Committee against Torture at its fifty-third session under the sub-item entitled "Implementation of human rights instruments".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/87. Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/170 of 22 December 1995, as well as other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[196]

Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of United Nations human rights instruments is of major importance to the efforts of the Organization, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[197] to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that the effective functioning of the treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,

Conscious of the importance of the coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities of the United Nations bodies active in the field of human rights,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives taken by a number of treaty bodies to elaborate early-warning measures and urgent procedures, within their mandates, with a view to preventing the occurrence, or reoccurrence, of serious human rights violations,

Expressing concern that the underresourcing of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat is one impediment to the treaty bodies in their ability to carry out their mandates effectively,

Reaffirming its responsibility to ensure the effective functioning of treaty bodies, and reaffirming also the importance of:

(*a*) Ensuring the effective functioning of the periodic reporting by States parties to these instruments;

(*b*) Securing sufficient financial, human and information resources to overcome existing difficulties with their effective functioning;

(*c*) Promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness through better coordination of the activities of the United

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[196] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[197] Resolution 217 A (III).

Nations bodies active in the field of human rights, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping of their mandates and tasks;

(*d*) Addressing questions of both reporting obligations and financial implications whenever elaborating any further instruments on human rights,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[198]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on their seventh meeting, held at Geneva from 16 to 20 September 1996,[199] and takes note of their conclusions and recommendations;

2. *Encourages* greater efforts to identify measures for more effective implementation of the United Nations human rights instruments;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operations of the treaty bodies, and with this in mind:

(*a*) Reiterates its request that the Secretary-General provide adequate resources in respect of each treaty body;

(*b*) Calls upon the Secretary-General to make the most efficient use of existing resources and to seek the resources necessary to give the treaty bodies adequate administrative support, access to technical expertise and access to appropriate databases and on-line information services;

(*c*) Requests that the Secretary-General report on this question to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

4. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts by the treaty bodies and the Secretary-General aimed at streamlining, rationalizing, rendering more transparent and otherwise improving reporting procedures, and urges the treaty bodies and the meetings of persons chairing the treaty bodies to continue to examine ways of reducing the duplication of reporting required under the different instruments, without impairing the quality of reporting, and of generally reducing the reporting burden on Member States;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a detailed analytical study comparing the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[200] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[200] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[201] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[202] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[203] and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[204] with a view to identifying duplication of reporting required under these instruments;

6. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with his mandate, to encourage the independent expert to finalize his interim report on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of the human rights treaty system[205] in time for the final report to be considered by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/120 of 20 December 1993;

7. *Urges* States parties to contribute, individually and through meetings of States parties, to identifying and implementing ways of further streamlining, rationalizing, avoiding duplication in and otherwise improving reporting procedures;

8. *Expresses concern* about the increasing backlog of reports on the implementation by States parties of United Nations instruments on human rights and about delays in consideration of reports by the treaty bodies;

9. *Also expresses concern* about the large number of overdue reports under the United Nations instruments on human rights, and again urges States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations;

10. *Invites* States parties that have been unable to comply with the requirements to submit their initial report to avail themselves of technical assistance;

11. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure that the revised *Manual on Human Rights Reporting* is available in all official languages at the earliest opportunity;

12. *Encourages* the efforts of the treaty bodies to examine the progress made in achieving the fulfilment of human rights treaty undertakings by all States parties, without exception;

13. *Urges* States parties to address, as a matter of priority, at their next scheduled meetings, the issue of States parties consistently not complying with their reporting obligations;

14. *Urges* all States parties whose reports have been examined by treaty bodies to provide adequate follow-up to the observations and final comments of the treaty bodies on their reports;

15. *Encourages* the treaty bodies to continue to identify specific possibilities for technical assistance, to be provided at the request of the State concerned, in the regular course of their work of reviewing the periodic reports of States parties;

16. *Welcomes* the recommendation by the meeting of persons chairing the treaty bodies that treaty bodies urge each

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[198] A/51/425.

[199] A/51/482, annex.

[200] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[201] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[202] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[203] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[204] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[205] A/CONF.157/PC/62/Add.11/Rev.1.

State party to translate, publish and make widely available in its territory the full text of the concluding observations on its reports to the treaty bodies, and requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make every effort to ensure that recent reports and the summary records of committee discussions pertaining to them, as well as concluding observations and final comments of the treaty bodies, are made available in the United Nations information centres in the countries submitting those reports;

17. *Also welcomes* the contribution to the work of the treaty bodies made by the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, and invites the specialized agencies, other United Nations bodies and the treaty bodies to continue to pursue further cooperation between them;

18. *Further welcomes* the recommendation of the persons chairing the treaty bodies that efforts continue to be made to enhance coordination and cooperation between the treaty bodies and the special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;[206]

19. *Recognizes* the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the effective implementation of all human rights instruments, and encourages the exchange of information between the treaty bodies and such organizations;

20. *Recalls*, with regard to the election of the members of the treaty bodies, the importance of giving consideration to equitable geographic distribution of membership and to the representation of the principal legal systems and of bearing in mind that the members shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity and be of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights;

21. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council, as well as its functional commissions and their subsidiary bodies, and other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies to consider the feasibility of participation by representatives of the treaty bodies in their meetings;

22. *Welcomes* the continuing emphasis by the persons chairing the treaty bodies that the enjoyment of the human rights of women should be monitored closely by each treaty body within the purview of its mandate, and in this regard endorses the recommendation by the meeting of the persons chairing the treaty bodies that each treaty body should continue to consider how it might most effectively incorporate gender perspectives in its work practices;[207]

23. *Also welcomes* all appropriate measures the treaty bodies may take, within their mandates, in response to situations of massive human rights violations, including bringing those violations to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General and the competent bodies of the United Nations in the field of human rights, and requests the High Commissioner, acting within his mandate, to coordinate and consult throughout the United Nations system in this regard;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on measures taken to implement the present resolution and on obstacles to its implementation;

25. *Decides* to continue giving priority consideration, at its fifty-second session, to the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings of persons chairing treaty bodies, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights, under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/88. Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, in adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[208] on 10 December 1948, it recognized the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Considering that the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration provides an opportunity for the United Nations and its Member States to redouble their efforts to promote awareness and strengthened observance of the rights set out in the Declaration,

Recognizing the Declaration as the source of inspiration and the basis of subsequent progress in the field of human rights,

Concerned that international human rights standards are not fully and universally respected, that human rights continue to be violated in all parts of the world and that people still suffer misery and are deprived of the full enjoyment of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, and convinced of the necessity to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in all situations and to strengthen United Nations efforts in this regard,

Recalling the significance and the message of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[209]

Recalling also its decision 48/416 of 10 December 1993, in which it decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights",

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[206] A/51/482, annex, para. 53.

[207] Ibid., para. 60.

[208] Resolution 217 A (III).

[209] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[210] in particular section IX thereof entitled "1998: Human Rights Year", in which proposals to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary were made, including the convening of a ceremonial meeting of the General Assembly, and welcoming the intention of the High Commissioner to facilitate cooperation between various initiatives aimed at the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary,

1. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to coordinate the preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[208] bearing in mind the provisions set out in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[209] for evaluation and follow-up;

2. *Invites* Governments to review and assess the progress that has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to identify obstacles and ways in which they can be overcome to achieve progress in this area, to undertake additional efforts and to develop programmes of education and information, with a view to disseminating the text of the Declaration and arriving at a better understanding of the universal message;

3. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies to give appropriate attention, within their mandates and methods of work, to the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration and to reflect on their possible contribution to the preparations;

4. *Endorses* the intention of the relevant United Nations organs and agencies, in the light of the purposes set forth in the Declaration , to make an assessment of and to put forward pertinent conclusions on the state of implementation and impact of existing international human rights instruments;

5. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations organs and agencies, in coordination with the High Commissioner, to mark the anniversary by intensifying their own contributions to United Nations system-wide efforts to promote and protect human rights;

6. *Invites* non-governmental organizations and national institutions to participate fully in the preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration, to intensify their campaign for greater understanding and better use of the Declaration and to communicate their observations and recommendations to the High Commissioner;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 appropriate activities to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration;

8. *Decides* to convene, during its fifty-third session, a one-day plenary meeting, on 10 December 1998, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration;

9. *Also decides* to review during its fifty-second session the state of preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration and to consider appropriate measures in this regard, including its own contribution.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/89. Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Recalling the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[211]

Stressing that, as stated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[212] family reunification of documented migrants is an important factor in international migration and that remittances by documented migrants to their countries of origin often constitute a very important source of foreign exchange and are instrumental in improving the well-being of relatives left behind,

Recalling its resolution 50/175 of 22 December 1995,

1. *Once again calls upon* all States to guarantee the universally recognized freedom of travel to all foreign nationals legally residing in their territory;

2. *Reaffirms* that all Governments, particularly those of receiving countries, must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its incorporation into national legislation in order to ensure protection of the unity of families of documented migrants;

3. *Calls upon* all States to allow, in conformity with international legislation, the free flow of financial remittances by foreign nationals residing in their territory to their relatives in the country of origin;

4. *Also calls upon* all States to refrain from enacting, and to repeal if it already exists, legislation intended as a coercive measure which discriminates against individuals or groups of legal migrants by adversely affecting family reunification and the right to send financial remittances to relatives in the country of origin;

5. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

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[210] A/51/36; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36.*

[211] Resolution 217 A (III).

[212] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

51/90. Strengthening of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling, inter alia, its resolutions 48/141 of 20 December 1993 and 50/187 of 22 December 1995, and bearing in mind all relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, including Commission resolution 1996/82 of 24 April 1996,[213]

Recalling its request to the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 37 of its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995 to establish within the biennium 1996-1997 a new branch whose primary responsibilities would include the promotion and protection of the right to development,

Reaffirming that the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms must be considered as a priority objective of the United Nations in accordance with its purposes and principles, in particular the purpose of international cooperation,

Recalling that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the World Conference on Human Rights stressed the importance of strengthening the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat,[214]

Taking into account the fact that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the World Conference on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to take immediate steps to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme, from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations, and to take urgent steps to seek increased extrabudgetary resources,[215]

Taking into account also the establishment of the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the mandate for the post, including its coordinating role and its overall supervision of the Centre, as well as the request by the General Assembly in resolution 48/141 for appropriate staff and resources to enable the High Commissioner to fulfil his mandate,

Noting with concern that the response to the abovementioned requests has not been commensurate with the needs, resulting in a serious and continuing imbalance between the mandates assigned to the High Commissioner and the Centre by the competent bodies of the United Nations system in the field of human rights and the resources available to fulfil all of those mandates,

Taking into account the fact that the responsibilities of the High Commissioner include engaging in a dialogue with all Governments in the implementation of his mandate with a view to the promotion and protection of all human rights, and rationalizing, adapting, strengthening and streamlining the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights, with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness,

Taking into account also the fact that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the World Conference on Human Rights urged United Nations organs, bodies and the specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights to cooperate in order to strengthen, rationalize and streamline their activities, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary duplication,[216]

Bearing in mind that Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations states that the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff of the Secretariat and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and that due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff of the Secretariat on as wide a geographical basis as possible;

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights[217] and the note by the Secretary-General on the composition of the staff of the Centre,[218] as well as the report of the High Commissioner,[219]

Taking note with appreciation of the information provided by the High Commissioner with regard to the restructuring of the Centre with a view to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Centre and ensuring that all its mandates can be implemented,

Considering that this process should contribute to the strengthening of the functional framework for integrated and consolidated activities of the Secretariat in the field of human rights,

Emphasizing that, while further improvement in the functioning and efficiency of the Centre, together with a strong emphasis on good management practices, is needed in order to enable the Centre to fulfil all mandates entrusted to it and cope with its constantly increasing workload, good management practices need to be complemented by resources commensurate with mandates,

1. *Supports and encourages* the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance the role and further improve the functioning of the Centre for Human Rights, as an integral part of the Secretariat of the United Nations, under the overall supervision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

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[213] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[214] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 13.

[215] Ibid., para. 9.

[216] Ibid., para. 1.

[217] A/51/641.

[218] A/51/650.

[219] A/51/36; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36.*

2. *Reiterates* the need to ensure that all the necessary human, financial, material and personnel resources are provided from the regular budget of the United Nations without delay to the United Nations human rights programme to enable it to carry out its mandates efficiently, effectively and expeditiously, having due regard to the need to finance and implement activities of the United Nations relating to development;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the capability of the High Commissioner and the Centre to fulfil effectively their mandates and their ability to carry out mandated operational activities and to coordinate efficiently with other relevant departments of the Secretariat, as well as other organs, bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including on logistical and administrative questions;

4. *Supports fully* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner in their efforts to strengthen the human rights activities of the United Nations, *inter alia*, through reorganization of the structure of the Centre to improve its efficiency and effectiveness;

5. *Encourages* increased cooperation and coordination on human rights issues between the High Commissioner, acting within his mandate, and other departments and offices of the Secretariat;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for full participation of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights in all mechanisms related to the follow-up to major United Nations conferences, in particular the inter-agency task forces established for this purpose;

7. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to provide information and exchange of views with all States on a regular basis on the ongoing process of restructuring the Centre, *inter alia*, through informal open briefing sessions;

8. *Encourages* the High Commissioner, within his mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/141, to continue to play an active role in promoting and protecting human rights, including by preventing human rights violations throughout the world, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to support activities proposed by the High Commissioner;

9. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/91. Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, as well as its subsequent resolutions on the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,

Concerned by the growing frequency and severity of disputes and conflicts concerning minorities in many countries and their often tragic consequences, and concerned also that persons belonging to minorities are particularly vulnerable to displacement through, *inter alia*, population transfers, refugee flows and forced relocation,

Considering that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace and enrich the cultural heritage of society as a whole in the States in which such persons live,

Noting that the Working Group on Minorities of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities held its second session from 30 April to 3 May 1996 and that its report will be made available to the Commission on Human Rights,

Acknowledging that the United Nations has an increasingly important role to play regarding the protection of minorities,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[220]

2. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

3. *Urges* States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration, including through the facilitation of their participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development of their country;

4. *Recognizes* that respect for human rights and the promotion of understanding and tolerance by Governments as well as between and among minorities is central to the protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

5. *Urges* States to take, as appropriate, all the necessary constitutional, legislative, administrative and other measures to promote and give effect to the principles contained in the Declaration;

6. *Appeals* to States to make bilateral and multilateral efforts, as appropriate, in order to protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic

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[220] A/51/536.

minorities in their countries, in accordance with the Declaration;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues, including the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities;

8. *Welcomes* the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and, in accordance with his mandate, calls upon him to promote the implementation of the Declaration and to continue to engage in a dialogue with Governments concerned for that purpose;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to improve the coordination and cooperation of United Nations programmes and agencies which deal with minority issues in activities related to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

10. *Urges* all treaty bodies to give due regard, within their respective mandates, to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

11. *Calls upon* States to continue to include in their reports to treaty bodies, in accordance with the relevant conventions, information on measures taken for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

12. *Calls upon* all special representatives, special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to situations involving minorities;

13. *Encourages* intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/92. Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

The General Assembly,

Considering that the subject of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions has been discussed in the United Nations for many years[221] within the framework of discussions on human rights based on the general recognition of the right to life of every person as guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[222] the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[223] and a large number of other international human rights instruments, that extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions can be fought effectively only through a genuine will on the part of Governments to enforce the safeguards and guarantees for the protection of the right to life of every person, that declarations of commitment to the protection of the right to life by Governments are only effective if they are translated into practice and respected by all and that, if the aim is protection of the right to life, the emphasis must be on prevention of all forms of violations of this fundamental right,

1. *Strongly condemns once again* all the extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that continue to take place throughout the world;

2. *Demands* that all Governments ensure that the practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions be brought to an end and that they take effective action to combat and eliminate the phenomenon in all its forms;

3. *Reiterates* the obligation of all Governments to conduct exhaustive and impartial investigations into all suspected cases of extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions, to identify and bring to justice those responsible, to grant adequate compensation to the victims or their families and to adopt all necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such executions;

4. *Reiterates also* that the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions needs to be able to respond effectively to credible and reliable information that comes before him, and invites him to continue to seek the views and comments of all concerned, including Member States, in the elaboration of his report;

5. *Reaffirms* Economic and Social Council decision 1995/284 of 25 July 1995, in which the Council approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1995/73 of 8 March 1995[224] to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for a three-year period, and recommends that the Commission at its fifty-fourth session continue his mandate;

6. *Takes note* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur;[225]

7. *Notes* the important role the Special Rapporteur has played towards the elimination of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

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[221] The most recent resolutions are General Assembly resolution 49/191 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/74 (for the latter, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.).

[222] Resolution 217 A (III).

[223] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[224] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[225] A/51/457, annex.

8. *Notes* that the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1996/74,[226] requested the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate:

(*a*) To continue to examine situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and to submit his findings, together with conclusions and recommendations, to the Commission, as well as such other reports as the Special Rapporteur deems necessary in order to keep the Commission informed about such serious situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that warrant its immediate attention;

(*b*) To respond effectively to information that comes before him, in particular when an extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution is imminent or threatened, or when such an execution has occurred;

(*c*) To enhance further his dialogue with Governments, as well as to follow up on recommendations made in reports after visits to particular countries;

(*d*) To continue to pay special attention to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions of children and women and to allegations concerning violations of the right to life in the context of violence against participants in demonstrations and other peaceful public manifestations or against persons belonging to minorities;

(*e*) To pay special attention to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions where the victims are individuals who are carrying out peaceful activities in the defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(*f*) To continue monitoring the implementation of existing international standards on safeguards and restrictions relating to the imposition of capital punishment, bearing in mind the comments made by the Human Rights Committee[227] in its interpretation of article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[223] as well as the Second Optional Protocol thereto;[228]

(*g*) To apply a gender perspective in his work;

9. *Strongly urges* all Governments to respond to the communications transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur, and urges them and all others concerned to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur so that he may carry out his mandate effectively, including, where appropriate, by issuing invitations to the Special Rapporteur when he so requests;

10. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to organize training programmes and to support projects with a view to training or educating military forces, law enforcement officers and government officials, as well as members of the United Nations peacekeeping or observer missions, in human rights and humanitarian law issues connected with their work, and appeals to the international community to support endeavours to that end;

11. *Urges* the Special Rapporteur to continue to draw to the attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights such situations of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions as are of particularly serious concern to him or where early action might prevent further deterioration;

12. *Welcomes* the cooperation established between the Special Rapporteur and other United Nations mechanisms and procedures in the field of human rights, as well as with medical and forensic experts, and encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue efforts in this regard;

13. *Encourages* the Governments of all States in which the death penalty has not been abolished to comply with their obligations under the relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, taking into account the safeguards and guarantees referred to in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/50 of 25 May 1984 and 1989/64 of 24 May 1989;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Human Rights of the implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1995/284, keeping in mind the comments on this matter by the Special Rapporteur in his report,[229] in order to enable him to carry out his mandate effectively, including through country visits;

15. *Again requests* the Secretary-General to continue to use his best endeavours in cases where the minimum standard of legal safeguards provided for in articles 6, 9, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights appears not to have been respected;

16. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session an interim report on the situation worldwide in regard to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and his recommendations for more effective action to combat that phenomenon.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/93. Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling that all States have pledged themselves, under the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

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[226] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[227] See A/51/40, paras. 396-399; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 40.*

[228] Resolution 44/128, annex.

[229] E/CN.4/1996/4, para. 619.

Reaffirming that discrimination against human beings on the grounds of religion or belief constitutes an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[230]

Emphasizing that the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is far-reaching and profound and that it encompasses freedom of thought on all matters, personal conviction and the commitment to religion or belief, whether manifested individually or in community with others,

Reaffirming the call of the World Conference on Human Rights for all Governments to take all appropriate measures in compliance with their international obligations and with due regard to their respective legal systems to counter intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief, including practices of discrimination against women and the desecration of religious sites, recognizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion,[231]

Calling upon all Governments to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief to enable him to carry out his mandate fully,

Alarmed that serious instances of intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, including acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious intolerance, occur in many parts of the world and threaten the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Deeply concerned that, as reported by the Special Rapporteur, the rights violated on religious grounds include the right to life, the right to physical integrity and to liberty and security of person, the right to freedom of expression, the right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the right not to be arbitrarily arrested or detained,[232]

1. *Reaffirms* that freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief is a human right derived from the inherent dignity of the human person and guaranteed to all without discrimination;

2. *Urges* States to ensure that their constitutional and legal systems provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the provision of effective remedies in cases where the right to freedom of religion or belief is violated;

3. *Also urges* States to ensure, in particular, that no one within their jurisdiction is, because of their religion or belief, deprived of the right to life or the right to liberty and security of person or subjected to torture or arbitrary arrest or detention;

4. *Further urges* States, in conformity with international standards of human rights, to take all necessary action to prevent such instances, to take all appropriate measures to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by religious intolerance and to encourage, through the educational system and by other means, understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

5. *Recognizes* that legislation alone is not enough to prevent violations of human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief;

6. *Emphasizes* that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, restrictions on the freedom to manifest religion or belief are permitted only if limitations are prescribed by law, are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others and are applied in a manner that does not vitiate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

7. *Urges* States to ensure that, in the course of their official duties, members of law enforcement bodies, civil servants, educators and other public officials respect different religions and beliefs and do not discriminate against persons professing other religions or beliefs;

8. *Calls upon* all States to recognize, as provided in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, the right of all persons to worship or assemble in connection with a religion or belief and to establish and maintain places for those purposes;

9. *Expresses its grave concern* at any attack upon religious places, sites and shrines, and calls upon all States, in accordance with their national legislation and in conformity with international human rights standards, to exert utmost efforts to ensure that such places, sites and shrines are fully respected and protected;

10. *Recognizes* that the exercise of tolerance and non-discrimination by persons and groups is necessary for the full realization of the aims of the Declaration;

11. *Encourages* the continued efforts on the part of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, appointed to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world that are incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration and to recommend remedial measures as appropriate;

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[230] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[231] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 22.

[232] See E/CN.4/1994/79, para. 103.

12. *Encourages* Governments to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries so as to enable him to fulfil his mandate even more effectively;

13. *Also encourages* Governments, when seeking the assistance of the United Nations programme of advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights, to consider, where appropriate, including requests for assistance in the field of the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

14. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts of non-governmental organizations and religious bodies and groups to promote the implementation of the Declaration, and invites them to consider what further contribution they could make to its implementation and dissemination in all parts of the world;

15. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration;

16. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the necessary staffing, financial and material resources to enable him to discharge in full and on time his mandate;

18. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/94. Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[233] the International Covenants on Human Rights[234] and the other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling its resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978 concerning disappeared persons and its resolutions 46/125 of 17 December 1991, 47/132 of 18 December 1992 and 49/193 of 23 December 1994 on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances,

Recalling also its resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992 proclaiming the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States,

Expressing concern that, according to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the practice of a number of States can run counter to the Declaration,

Deeply concerned, in particular, by the intensification of enforced disappearances in various regions of the world and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

Convinced that further efforts are needed to promote wider awareness of and respect for the Declaration, and taking note in this regard of the report of the Secretary-General,[235]

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/30 of 19 April 1996,[236]

1. *Reaffirms* that any act of enforced disappearance is an offence to human dignity and a grave and flagrant violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[233] and reaffirmed and developed in other international instruments in this field, as well as a violation of the rules of international law;

2. *Reiterates its invitation* to all Governments to take appropriate legislative or other steps to prevent and suppress the practice of enforced disappearances, in keeping with the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and to take action to that end at the national and regional levels and in cooperation with the United Nations, including through technical assistance;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to take steps to ensure that, when a state of emergency is introduced, the protection of human rights is ensured, in particular as regards the prevention of enforced disappearances;

4. *Reminds* Governments of the need to ensure that their competent authorities conduct prompt and impartial inquiries in all circumstances, whenever there is reason to believe that an enforced disappearance has occurred in territory under their jurisdiction, and that, if allegations are confirmed, perpetrators should be prosecuted;

5. *Once again urges* the Governments concerned to take steps to protect the families of disappeared persons against any intimidation or ill-treatment to which they might be subjected;

6. *Encourages* States, as some have already done, to provide concrete information on measures taken to give effect to the Declaration, as well as obstacles encountered;

7. *Requests* all States to consider the possibility of disseminating the text of the Declaration in their respective national languages and to facilitate its dissemination in the national and local languages;

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[233] Resolution 217 A (III).

[234] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[235] A/51/561.

[236] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

8. *Notes* the action taken by non-governmental organizations to encourage implementation of the Declaration, and invites them to continue to facilitate its dissemination and to contribute to the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for its humanitarian work;

10. *Requests* the Working Group, in the continued exercise of its mandate, to take into account the provisions of the Declaration and to modify its working methods, if necessary;

11. *Recalls* that the primary role of the Working Group, as described in its reports, is to act as a channel of communication between the families of disappeared persons and the Governments concerned, with a view to ensuring that sufficiently documented and clearly identified individual cases are investigated, and to ascertain whether such information falls under its mandate and contains the required elements, and invites the Group to continue to seek the views and comments of all concerned, including Member States, in preparing its report;

12. *Invites* the Working Group to identify obstacles to the realization of the provisions of the Declaration, to recommend ways of overcoming those obstacles and, in this regard, to continue a dialogue with Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

13. *Further encourages* the Working Group to continue to consider the question of impunity, in close collaboration with the rapporteur appointed by the Subcommission and with due regard for the relevant provisions of the Declaration;

14. *Requests* the Working Group to pay the utmost attention to cases of children subjected to enforced disappearance and children of disappeared persons and to cooperate closely with the Governments concerned to search for and identify those children;

15. *Appeals* to the Governments concerned, in particular those which have not yet replied to the communications transmitted by the Working Group, to cooperate fully with it and, in particular, to reply promptly to its requests for information so that, while respecting its working methods based on discretion, it may perform its strictly humanitarian role;

16. *Encourages* the Governments concerned to give serious consideration to inviting the Working Group to visit their countries so as to enable the Group to fulfil its mandate even more effectively;

17. *Expresses its profound thanks* to the many Governments that have cooperated with the Working Group and replied to its requests for information, and to the Governments that have invited the Group to visit their countries, asks them to give all necessary attention to the recommendations of the Group, and invites them to inform the Group of any action they take on those recommendations;

18. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to study this question as a matter of priority and to take any steps it may deem necessary to the pursuit of the task of the Working Group and to the follow-up of its recommendations when it considers the report to be submitted by the Working Group to the Commission at its fifty-third session;

19. *Renews its requests* to the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Working Group with all the facilities it requires to perform its functions, especially for carrying out missions and following them up;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the steps he takes to secure the widespread dissemination and promotion of the Declaration;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session a report on the steps taken to implement the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to consider the question of enforced disappearances, and in particular the implementation of the Declaration, at its fifty-third session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/95. Follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/124 of 18 December 1992, 48/126 of 20 December 1993 and 49/213 of 23 December 1994, by which it proclaimed and supported the United Nations Year for Tolerance,

Recalling also that the Charter of the United Nations affirms in its preamble that to practice tolerance is one of the principles to be applied to attain the ends pursued by the United Nations of preventing war and maintaining peace,

Stressing that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Bearing in mind the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[237] the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on

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[237] Resolution 217 A (III).

25 June 1993,[238] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[239]

Reconfirming that tolerance is the sound foundation of any civil society and of peace,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General[240] transmitting the final report on the United Nations Year for Tolerance, including the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, submitted to him by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/213,

Taking note also of resolution 5.6 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-eighth session,[241]

1. *Welcomes* the role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the preparation for and implementation of the United Nations Year for Tolerance;

2. *Takes note* of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, adopted by the States members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 16 November 1995;[240]

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contribution of the regional conferences on tolerance and other relevant activities organized during the United Nations Year for Tolerance at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Seoul (Republic of Korea), Sienna (Italy), Carthage (Tunisia), New Delhi (India), Moscow and Yakutsk (Russian Federation), Tbilisi (Georgia) and Istanbul (Turkey) to the Declaration of Principles and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the promotion of tolerance;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to take appropriate initiatives, including holding regional meetings, to assure the follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the regional conferences organized during the United Nations Year for Tolerance and to promote further the spirit instigated by those conferences;

5. *Invites* Member States to consider applying the Declaration of Principles at the national level and to continue to undertake public information campaigns in connection with the Follow-up Plan of Action aimed at the realization of more tolerant societies;

6. *Also invites* Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance annually on 16 November with appropriate activities directed towards both educational establishments and the wider public;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its activities aimed at reinforcing the struggle against the rise of intolerance;

8. *Recommends* that interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies exert efforts in their respective fields to contribute to the long-term follow-up programme for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, including celebration of the International Day for Tolerance, and to consider what further contributions they can make to implement and disseminate the standards affirmed in the Declaration of Principles;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue to coordinate actions in support of tolerance promotion and education in partnership with other United Nations agencies and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and to make reports available to the General Assembly on a biennial basis on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the Follow-up Plan of Action;

10. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to consider, at an appropriate time, the possibility of organizing an international conference to inform and mobilize public opinion, as well as the United Nations system, in this regard;

11. *Decides* to consider the question of the follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance at its fifty-third session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/96. Strengthening of the rule of law

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[242] Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Firmly convinced that the rule of law is an essential factor in the protection of human rights, as stressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and should continue to attract the attention of the international community,

Convinced that through their own national legal and judicial systems States must provide appropriate civil, criminal and administrative remedies for violations of human rights,

Recognizing the importance of the role that can be played by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in supporting national efforts to strengthen the institutions of the rule of law,

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[238] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[239] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[240] A/51/201.

[241] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-eighth Session, Paris, 25 October-16 November 1995*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. IV.

[242] Resolution 217 A (III).

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly entrusted the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with, *inter alia*, providing through the Centre and other appropriate institutions advisory services and technical and financial assistance in the field of human rights, enhancing international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights and coordinating human rights activities throughout the United Nations system,

Recalling the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights that a comprehensive programme be established within the United Nations and under the coordination of the Centre with a view to helping States in the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures that have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law,[243]

Recognizing that the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights remains the focal point for coordinating system-wide attention for human rights, democracy and the rule of law,

Recalling its resolution 50/179 of 22 December 1995, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/56 of 19 April 1996,[244]

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[245]

2. *Takes note with interest* of the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General for strengthening the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in order to comply fully with the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights concerning assistance to States in strengthening their institutions which uphold the rule of law;

3. *Praises* the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre to accomplish their ever-increasing tasks with the limited financial and personnel resources at their disposal;

4. *Expresses its deep concern* at the scarcity of means at the disposal of the Centre for the fulfilment of its tasks;

5. *Notes* that the programme of advisory services and technical assistance does not have assistance funds sufficient to provide any substantial financial assistance to national projects that have a direct impact on the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law in countries that are committed to those ends but that face economic hardship;

6. *Welcomes* the consultations and contacts initiated by the High Commissioner with other relevant bodies and programmes of the United Nations system aiming at the enhancement of inter-agency coordination and cooperation in providing assistance for the strengthening of the rule of law;

7. *Encourages* the High Commissioner to pursue these consultations, taking into account the need to explore new synergies with other organs and agencies of the United Nations system with a view to obtaining increased financial assistance for human rights and the rule of law;

8. *Also encourages* the High Commissioner to continue to explore the possibility of further contact with and support of financial institutions, acting within their mandates, with a view to obtaining technical and financial means to strengthen the capacity of the Centre to provide assistance to national projects aiming at the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to accord high priority to the technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Centre with regard to the rule of law;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proposal of the High Commissioner to convene a high-level meeting of relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, in order to analyse means, modalities, financing and allocation of responsibilities for the implementation of a comprehensive United Nations programme of assistance for the rule of law, taking into account the experience of the technical cooperation programme of the Centre;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the results of the contacts established in accordance with the present resolution, as well as on any other developments pertaining to the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/97. Human rights and extreme poverty

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[246] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[247] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[247] and other human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations,

Considering the relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[248] and of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted by the World Summit on 12 March 1995,[249]

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[243] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 69.

[244] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[245] A/51/555.

[246] Resolution 217 A (III).

[247] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[248] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[249] A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Recalling its resolutions 44/148 of 15 December 1989, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/199 of 21 December 1990, 49/179 of 23 December 1994 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it declared 17 October International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, and 50/107 of 20 December 1995, by which it proclaimed the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1992/11 of 21 February 1992,[250] 1993/13 of 26 February 1993,[251] 1994/12 of 25 February 1994,[252] 1995/16 of 24 February 1995[253] and 1996/10 of 11 April 1996,[254] as well as resolution 1996/23 of 29 August 1996 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,[255]

Recalling its resolution 47/134 of 18 December 1992, in which it reaffirmed that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constituted a violation of human dignity and stressed the need for a complete and in-depth study of extreme poverty, based on the experience and the thoughts of the poorest,

Recognizing that the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and might, in some situations, constitute a threat to the right to life,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty continues to spread in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and seriously affects the most vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, families and groups, who are thus hindered in the exercise of their human rights and their fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that the elimination of widespread poverty and the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights are interrelated goals,

Welcoming the work of the Special Rapporteur on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, and taking into account his final report,[256]

1. *Reaffirms* that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them;

2. *Reaffirms also* that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[248] it is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process in the communities in which they live, in the promotion of human rights and in efforts to combat extreme poverty;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Special Rapporteur, in the process of preparing his final report,[256] has implemented the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights by paying special attention to the efforts of the poorest themselves and the conditions in which they can convey their experiences;

4. *Again calls upon* States, the specialized agencies, United Nations bodies and other international organizations, including intergovernmental organizations, to give the necessary attention to this problem and to the necessary follow-up to the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur as contained in his final report;

5. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, to give appropriate attention to the question of human rights and extreme poverty;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the specific action taken by the United Nations Children's Fund to mitigate the effects of extreme poverty on children and the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme to give priority to the search for some means of alleviating poverty within the framework of the relevant resolutions, and urges them to continue in this work;

7. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-third session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/98. Situation of human rights in Cambodia

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[257] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[258]

Taking note of the Agreement on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict, signed in Paris on 23 October 1991,[259] including part III thereof, relating to human rights,

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[250] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2* (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[251] Ibid., *1993, Supplement No. 3* (E/1993/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[252] Ibid., *1994, Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1994/24 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[253] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[254] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[255] See E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41, chap. II, sect. A.

[256] E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/13.

[257] Resolution 217 A (III).

[258] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[259] A/46/608-S/23177, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1991*, document S/23177.

Taking note also of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/54 of 19 April 1996,[260] and recalling General Assembly resolution 50/178 of 22 December 1995 and previous relevant resolutions, including Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/6 of 19 February 1993,[261] in which the Commission recommended the appointment of a special representative for human rights in Cambodia, and the subsequent appointment by the Secretary-General of a special representative,

Bearing in mind the role and responsibilities of the United Nations and the international community in the process of the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia,

Recognizing that the tragic recent history of Cambodia requires special measures to assure the promotion and protection of the human rights of all people in Cambodia and the non-return to the policies and practices of the past, as stipulated in the Agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991,

Commending the continued operation in Cambodia of the office of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat,

Welcoming the understanding reached between the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and the Government of Cambodia in May 1995 regarding increased consultations between the Centre for Human Rights and the Government of Cambodia,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia, in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, to assist the Government of Cambodia in ensuring the protection of the human rights of all people in Cambodia and to ensure adequate resources, from within existing resources, for the enhanced functioning of the operational presence in Cambodia of the Centre;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General[262] on the role of the Centre for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights;

3. *Also welcomes* the continuing role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights in Cambodia and the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Cambodia to allow the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights to continue to operate for the next two years and to maintain its technical cooperation programmes;

4. *Commends* the work of the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Michael Kirby, in promoting and protecting human rights in Cambodia, and welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General of Mr. Thomas Hammarberg as his new Special Representative;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Representative,[263] and endorses his recommendations and conclusions, including those aimed at combating child prostitution and trafficking and ensuring the independence of the judiciary and the establishment of the rule of law, freedom of expression and the promotion of an effective, functioning multi-party democracy;

6. *Requests* the Special Representative, in collaboration with the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights, to continue his evaluation of the extent to which the recommendations made by the Special Representative in his report and those contained in reports of his predecessor are followed up and implemented;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary resources, from within the regular budget of the United Nations, to enable the Special Representative to continue to fulfil his tasks expeditiously;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Government of Cambodia to promote and protect human rights, in particular in the area of human rights education and the essential area of creating a functioning and impartial system of justice, urges that efforts continue in this area, and encourages the Government to improve the conditions of prisons;

9. *Notes* that communal elections are due to be held in 1997 and National Assembly elections in 1998, and strongly urges the Government of Cambodia to promote and uphold the effective functioning of multi-party democracy, including the right to form political parties, stand for election and take part freely in a representative Government, and to freedom of expression, in accordance with the principles set out in paragraphs 2 and 4 of annex 5 to the Agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991;[259]

10. *Welcomes* the proposed measures, outlined by the Government of Cambodia in its comments[264] on the report of the Secretary-General, to ensure that the forthcoming communal and national elections are free and fair, that members of the armed forces remain neutral during the election campaign, that the individual vote is confidential and that local and international observers are welcomed;

11. *Calls upon* the Government of Cambodia to investigate cases of violence and intimidation directed at minor political parties and their supporters, as well as against media personnel and offices, and to bring to justice those responsible;

12. *Also calls upon* the Government of Cambodia to ensure fair access to government television and radio regardless of political affiliation and to ensure that the people of Cambodia have access to a variety of information, especially in the lead-up to the elections;

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[260] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[261] Ibid., *1993, Supplement No. 3* (E/1993/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[262] A/51/453.

[263] E/CN.4/1996/93.

[264] A/51/453/Add.1.

13. *Commends* the Government of Cambodia for its constructive approach to the inclusion of Cambodian human rights non-governmental organizations in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia, and recommends that their skills be drawn upon to assist in ensuring that forthcoming elections are free and fair;

14. *Expresses serious concern* at the comments made by the Special Representative concerning the continuing problem of impunity, whereby the courts in several areas are reluctant or unable to charge members of the military, police and other security forces for serious criminal offences, and encourages the Government of Cambodia, as a matter of urgent priority, to address this problem, which in effect places the military and police above the principle of equality before the law;

15. *Expresses grave concern* about the atrocities that continue to be committed by the Khmer Rouge, including the taking and killing of hostages and other deplorable incidents detailed in the reports of the Special Representative and his predecessor;

16. *Also expresses grave concern* about the serious violations of human rights as detailed in the reports of the Special Representative and his predecessor, and calls upon the Government of Cambodia to prosecute in accordance with the due process of the law and international standards relating to human rights all those who have perpetrated human rights violations;

17. *Calls upon* the Government of Cambodia to ensure the full observance of human rights for all persons within its jurisdiction in accordance with the International Covenants on Human Rights[258] and other human rights instruments to which Cambodia is a party;

18. *Urges* the Government of Cambodia to give priority attention to combating child prostitution and trafficking and, in this connection, to work with the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights and non-governmental organizations to develop an action plan;

19. *Recognizes* the seriousness with which the Government of Cambodia has approached the preparation of its initial reports to the relevant treaty bodies, and encourages the Government to continue its efforts to meet its reporting obligations under international human rights instruments, drawing on the assistance of the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights;

20. *Encourages* the Government of Cambodia to request the Centre for Human Rights to provide advice and technical assistance with respect to the creation of an independent national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights;

21. *Commends* the ongoing efforts of the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights in supporting and assisting the Government of Cambodia, as well as non-governmental organizations and others involved in the promotion and protection of human rights in cooperation with the Government;

22. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts of individuals, non-governmental organizations, Governments and international organizations involved in human rights activities in Cambodia;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the use by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia to finance the programme of activities of the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights as defined in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, and invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations and individuals to consider contributing funds to the Trust Fund;

24. *Requests* the Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the relevant specialized agencies and development programmes, to develop and implement programmes, with the consent and cooperation of the Government of Cambodia, in the priority areas identified by the Special Representative, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups, including women, children, disabled persons and minorities;

25. *Expresses grave concern* at the devastating consequences and destabilizing effects of the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines on Cambodian society, encourages the Government of Cambodia to continue its support and efforts for the removal of these mines, and urges the Government to ban all anti-personnel landmines;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the role of the Centre for Human Rights in assisting the Government and the people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights and on the recommendations made by the Special Representative on matters within his mandate;

27. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Cambodia at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/99. Right to development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Right to Development,[265] which it proclaimed at its forty-first session,

Noting that 4 December 1996 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which represents a landmark and a meaningful instrument for countries and people worldwide,

Reaffirming the commitment contained in the Charter of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

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[265] Resolution 41/128, annex.

Recalling its resolutions 45/97 of 14 December 1990, 46/123 of 17 December 1991, 47/123 of 18 December 1992, 48/130 of 20 December 1993, 49/183 of 23 December 1994 and 50/184 of 22 December 1995 and those of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the right to development, and taking note of Commission resolution 1996/15 of 11 April 1996,[266]

Recalling also the report on the Global Consultation on the Realization of the Right to Development as a Human Right,[267]

Recalling further the principles proclaimed in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of 14 June 1992,[268]

Mindful that the Commission on Human Rights continues to consider this matter, which is directed towards the implementation and further enhancement of the right to development,

Noting the need for coordination and cooperation throughout the United Nations system for a more effective promotion of the right to development,

Recognizing that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat have important roles to play in the promotion and protection of the right to development,

Reaffirming the need for action at the national and international levels by all States to realize all human rights and the need for relevant evaluation mechanisms to ensure the promotion, encouragement and reinforcement of the principles contained in the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Welcoming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[269] which reaffirms the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of all fundamental human rights and reaffirms that the human person is the central subject of development,

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action examined the relationship between democracy, development and human rights, and recognizing the importance of creating a favourable environment in which everyone may enjoy their human rights as set out in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling also that, in order to promote development, equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and recognizing that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the universality, objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues must be ensured,

Noting that aspects of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted by the Conference on 13 September 1994,[270] the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted by the World Summit on 12 March 1995,[271] the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,[272] and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, are relevant to the universal realization of the right to development, within the context of promoting and protecting all human rights,

Expressing concern that obstacles to the realization of the right to development still exist, at both the national and international levels, ten years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Noting that the first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts established by the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a strategy for the implementation and promotion of the right to development, as set forth in the Declaration on the Right to Development, in its integrated and multidimensional aspects, was held at Geneva from 4 to 15 November 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/184,[273]

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the right to development for every human person and all peoples in all countries, in particular the developing countries, as an integral part of fundamental human rights;

2. *Urges* States to pursue the promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights and the implementation of comprehensive development programmes, integrating these rights into development activities;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[273]

4. *Reiterates its commitment* to implementing the results of the World Conference on Human Rights, which reaffirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;

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[266] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[267] E/CN.4/1990/9/Rev.1.

[268] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1(Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[269] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[270] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[271] A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[272] A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[273] A/51/539.

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of Commission resolution 1996/15;

6. *Reiterates* that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level;

7. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to consider carefully the report of the first session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to elaborate a strategy for the implementation and promotion of the right to development, as set forth in the Declaration on the Right to Development, in its integrated and multidimensional aspects, bearing in mind the conclusions of the Working Group on the Right to Development established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1993/22 of 4 March 1993[274] and the conclusions of the World Conference on Human Rights and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

8. *Notes* the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights within his mandate, and encourages him to continue the coordination of the various activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, including a programmatic follow-up to the establishment in the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat of a new branch, the primary responsibilities of which include the promotion of the right to development, as part of the effort to implement the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;[269]

9. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within his mandate, to continue to take steps for the promotion and protection of the right to development by, *inter alia*, working in conjunction with the Centre for Human Rights and drawing on the expertise of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system related to the field of development;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session and the General Assembly at its fifty-second session of the activities of the organizations, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, as well as obstacles identified by them to the realization of the right to development;

11. *Calls upon* all Member States to make further concrete efforts at the national and international levels to remove the obstacles to the realization of the right to development;

12. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to make proposals to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, on the future course of action on the question, in particular on practical measures for the implementation and enhancement of the Declaration on the Right to Development, including comprehensive and effective measures to eliminate obstacles to its implementation, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Global Consultation on the Realization of the Right to Development as a Human Right, the reports of the Working Group on the Right to Development and the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to elaborate a strategy for the implementation and promotion of the right to development;

13. *Calls upon* all States to address, within the declarations and programmes of action adopted by the relevant international conferences convened by the United Nations, the elements for the promotion and protection of the principles of the right to development as set out in the Declaration on the Right to Development;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

15. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/100. Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation is essential for the effective promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming its commitment to promote international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular in Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[275] to enhance genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

Encouraging the Working Group on Human Rights of the Third Committee to continue its efforts to implement section II, paragraph 17, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, giving due consideration to ways and means to promote international cooperation in the field of human rights with a view to accomplishing its mandate before the conclusion of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly,

1. *Supports* the consultations initiated during the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights on the

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[274] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* (E/1993/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[275] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

need to promote international cooperation through genuine and constructive dialogue on the basis of mutual respect and equality of States;

2. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to pursue the matter with a view to reaching a successful conclusion of this initiative, preferably by the fifty-third session of the Commission.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/101. Culture of peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations and the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolution 50/173 of 22 December 1995 entitled "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education: towards a culture of peace", in which it expressed satisfaction with the transdisciplinary project adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Towards a culture of peace", in particular unit 1, entitled "Education for peace, human rights, democracy, international understanding and tolerance",

Considering that the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004,[276] will make a fundamental contribution to understanding and peace and is consistent with the transdisciplinary project entitled "Towards a culture of peace",

Taking note of the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy,[277] adopted by the International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at Montreal from 8 to 11 March 1993, the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and all relevant provisions included in the declarations and programmes of action adopted in the series of international conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the need for a practical approach that can lead, through sustainable human development and the promotion of tolerance, dialogue and solidarity, to cooperation and the prevention of violence and thus to the consolidation of peace,

Considering the important results of the two international forums for a culture of peace hosted by El Salvador in February 1994 and the Philippines in November 1995,

Considering also the practical lessons learned from the national culture of peace programmes of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Burundi, the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mozambique, the Philippines, Rwanda and Somalia, whereby projects in the fields of competence of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in particular in education, have been planned and are being implemented through a process involving all parties concerned;

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the transdisciplinary project entitled "Towards a culture of peace";[278]

2. *Expresses deep concern* about the proliferation of violence and conflicts of a diverse nature in various parts of the world;

3. *Calls* for the promotion of a culture of peace based on the principles established in the Charter of the United Nations, respect for human rights, democracy, tolerance, dialogue, cultural diversity and reconciliation, and efforts to promote development, education for peace, the free flow of information and the wider participation of women, as an integral approach to prevent violence and conflicts and to contribute to the creation of conditions for peace and its consolidation;

4. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, signed in Paris on 19 October 1995;

5. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-fifth session, the biennial prize awarded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the teaching of human rights and the annual prize for peace education;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the progress of educational activities within the framework of the transdisciplinary project entitled "Towards a culture of peace", including the preparation of elements for a draft provisional declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace;

7. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of a culture of peace at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/102. Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

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[276] A/49/261/Add.1-E/1994/110/Add.1, annex.

[277] See A/CONF.157/PC/42/Add.6.

[278] A/51/395, annex.

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993,[279]

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights concerning advisory services in the field of human rights, including its most recent resolution on that subject, 1996/55 of 19 April 1996,[280]

Bearing in mind also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[281]

Reaffirming that regional arrangements play a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Recalling also that the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that more resources should be made available for the strengthening or the establishment of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programmes of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[282]

Noting the progress achieved so far in the promotion and protection of human rights at the regional level under the auspices of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the regional intergovernmental organizations,

Noting also the growing exchanges between the United Nations and the bodies created by the United Nations, in accordance with the treaties dealing with human rights on the one hand and the regional intergovernmental organizations on the other, in order to promote the mutual exchange of information between these bodies and the conclusion of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[282]

2. *Welcomes* the continuing cooperation and assistance of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights in the further strengthening of the existing regional arrangements and regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular with regard to advisory services and technical assistance, public information and education, with a view to exchanging information and experience in the field of human rights;

3. *Welcomes also*, in that respect, the close cooperation of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights in the organization of regional and subregional training courses and workshops in the field of human rights, high-level government expert meetings and a regional conference of national human rights institutions, aiming at creating greater understanding of the promotion and protection of human rights issues in the regions, improving procedures and examining the various systems for the promotion and protection of universally accepted human rights standards and at identifying obstacles to ratification of the principal international human rights treaties and strategies to overcome them;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, renews its appeal to all Governments to consider making use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations, under this programme, of organizing information or training courses at the national level for government personnel on the application of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant international bodies, and notes with satisfaction, in that respect, the establishment of technical cooperation projects with several Governments of the region of Asia and the Pacific;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as foreseen in programme 35 (Promotion and protection of human rights) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997,[283] to continue to strengthen exchanges between the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations dealing with human rights;

6. *Welcomes* the growing exchanges between the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights and several regional intergovernmental organizations, as well as between the bodies created by the United Nations in accordance with the treaties dealing with human rights and the Council of Europe;

7. *Invites* States in areas where regional arrangements in the field of human rights do not yet exist to consider concluding agreements with a view to the establishment within their respective regions of suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights;

8. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the most appropriate ways of assisting, at their request, countries of the different regions under the programme of advisory services and to make, where necessary, relevant recommendations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of

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[279] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* (E/1993/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[280] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[281] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[282] A/51/480.

[283] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/45/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-third session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/103. Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the pertinent principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proclaimed by the General Assembly by its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32 thereof, in which it is declared that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Taking note of the report submitted by the Secretary-General[284] pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/45 of 3 March 1995,[285]

Recognizing the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights, and, in this regard, reaffirming the right to development as an integral part of all human rights,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights called upon States to refrain from any unilateral coercive measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that creates obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of all human rights,[286]

Bearing in mind all the references to this question in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, adopted by the World Summit for Social Development on 12 March 1995,[287] the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,[288] and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on 14 June 1996,[289]

Deeply concerned that, despite the recommendations adopted on this issue by the General Assembly and recent major United Nations conferences, and contrary to general international law and the Charter of the United Nations, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated and implemented with all their extraterritorial effects, *inter alia*, on the economic and social development of targeted countries and peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

1. *Urges* all States to refrain from adopting or implementing any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in particular those of a coercive nature with all their extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[290] and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. *Rejects* unilateral coercive measures with all their extraterritorial effects as tools for political or economic pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, because of their negative effects on the realization of all the human rights of vast sectors of their populations, in particular children, women and the elderly;

3. *Calls upon* Member States that have initiated such measures to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from the international human rights instruments to which they are party by revoking such measures at the earliest time possible;

4. *Reaffirms*, in this context, the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

5. *Urges* the Commission on Human Rights to take fully into account the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, including enactment of national laws and their extraterritorial application, in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

6. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in discharging his functions relating to the promotion, realization and protection of the right to development, to give urgent consideration to the present resolution in his annual report to the General Assembly;

7. *Requests* Member States to notify the Secretary-General about the implications and negative effects of such measures on their populations in the various aspects referred to in the present resolution;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to examine this question, on a priority basis, at its fifty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

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[284] E/CN.4/1996/45 and Add.1.

[285] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[286] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. I, para. 31.

[287] A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[288] A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[289] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[290] Resolution 217 A (III).

51/104. United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and public information activities in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[291] according to article 26 of which "education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms", and the provisions of other international human rights instruments, such as those of article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[292] and article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[293] that reflect the aims of the aforementioned article,

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights concerning the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, the project of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Towards a culture of peace", the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[294] and the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Believing that the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights is a valuable complement to the activities of the United Nations aimed at the further promotion and protection of human rights, and recalling the importance attached by the World Conference on Human Rights to human rights education and information,

Convinced that human rights education should involve more than the provision of information and should constitute a comprehensive lifelong process by which people at all levels of development and in all societies learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect,

Recognizing that human rights education and information are essential to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that carefully designed programmes of teaching, learning, training and sharing of experiences, materials and information can have a catalytic effect on national, regional and international initiatives to promote and protect human rights and prevent human rights violations,

Convinced that human rights education and information contribute to a concept of development consistent with the dignity of women and men of all ages which takes into account the diverse segments of society such as children, indigenous people, minorities and disabled persons,

Taking into account the efforts to promote human rights education made by educators and non-governmental organizations in all parts of the world, as well as by intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund,

Convinced that each woman, man and child, to realize their full human potential, must be made aware of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing the invaluable and creative role that non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations can play in disseminating public information and engaging in human rights education, especially at the grass-roots level and in remote and rural communities,

Aware of the potential supportive role of the private sector in implementing at all levels of society the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004[295] and the World Public Information Campaign, through creative initiatives and financial support for governmental and non-governmental activities,

Convinced that the effectiveness of existing human rights education and public information activities would be enhanced by better coordination and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling that it is within the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to coordinate relevant United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education[296] and of the report of the Secretary-General on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights;[297]

2. *Welcomes* the steps taken by Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the Plan of Action, as indicated in the report of the High Commissioner;

3. *Urges* all Governments to inform their communities about the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the Decade and to contribute further to the implementation of the Plan of Action, in particular by establishing, in accordance with national conditions, broadly representative national committees for human rights education and training centres for human rights education or, where such bodies exist, to strengthen them to work towards the elaboration and implementation of an action-oriented national plan for information and education in human rights;

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[291] Resolution 217 A (III).

[292] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[293] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[294] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[295] A/49/261/Add.1-E/1994/110/Add.1, annex.

[296] A/51/506, annex.

[297] A/51/558.

4. *Also urges* Governments to encourage, support and involve national and local non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in the implementation of their national action plans;

5. *Appeals* to Governments, in accordance with their national conditions, to accord priority to the dissemination in their relevant national and local languages of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[291] the International Covenants on Human Rights[292] and other human rights instruments, human rights materials and training manuals, as well as reports of States parties under the human rights treaties, and to provide information and education in those languages on the practical ways in which national and international institutions and procedures may be utilized to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, together with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to increase cooperation with the media, including by the provision of timely and relevant information on human rights issues;

7. *Urges* the Department of Public Information to continue to utilize United Nations information centres for the timely dissemination, within their designated areas of activity, of basic information, reference and audio-visual materials on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the reports of States parties under human rights instruments and, to this end, to ensure that the information centres are supplied with adequate quantities of those materials;

8. *Requests* the office of the United Nations High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights to continue to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency in the use, processing, management and distribution of information and educational materials and to continue to coordinate and harmonize human rights information strategies within the United Nations system;

9. *Encourages* the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights to continue the development of training courses and materials, including targeted training manuals for professional audiences, as well as the dissemination of human rights information materials as a component of technical assistance projects, supplemented by electronic means wherever possible, taking particular account of the human rights needs of women, children, remote or isolated communities and persons with low levels of literacy;

10. *Requests* the human rights mechanisms to place emphasis on the promotion and implementation of programmes of information and education on human rights;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights, to consider appropriate ways and means, including the possibility of establishing a voluntary fund, to support human rights activities, including those undertaken by non-governmental organizations;

12. *Invites* the specialized agencies and relevant United Nations programmes to contribute, within their respective spheres of competence, to the implementation of the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights;

13. *Calls upon* international, regional and national non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, in particular those concerned with women, labour, development, food, housing, education, health care and the environment, as well as all other social justice groups, human rights advocates, educators, religious organizations and the media, to undertake specific activities of formal, non-formal and informal education, including cultural events, alone and in cooperation with the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights, in implementing the Plan of Action;

14. *Stresses* the need for close collaboration between the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information in the implementation of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the Plan of Action and the need to harmonize their activities with those of other organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the project entitled "Towards a culture of peace" and the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations with regard to the dissemination of information on international humanitarian law;

15. *Encourages* the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights to consider the promotion of educational and cultural activities throughout the world in accordance with the Plan of Action and the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights when preparing for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all members of the international community and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights education and public information and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/105. Strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that among the purposes of the United Nations are those of developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and taking other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, as well as achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Desirous of achieving further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that such international cooperation should be based on the principles embodied in international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[298] the International Covenants on Human Rights[299] and other relevant instruments,

Deeply convinced that United Nations action in this field should be based not only on a profound understanding of the broad range of problems existing in all societies but also on full respect for the political, economic and social realities of each of them, in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and for the basic purpose of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through international cooperation,

Reaffirming all its resolutions in this regard,

Reaffirming also the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, as affirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[300]

Affirming the importance of the objectivity, independence and discretion of the special rapporteurs and representatives on thematic issues and countries, as well as of the members of the working groups, in carrying out their mandates,

Underlining the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights,

1. *Reiterates* that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right within the provisions of the Charter, including respect for territorial integrity;

2. *Reaffirms* that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States, in cooperation with the Organization, to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to base their activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the development of further international cooperation in this field, on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[298] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[299] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[299] and other relevant international instruments and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with that international framework;

4. *Considers* that international cooperation in this field should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

5. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as legitimate concerns of the world community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends;

6. *Requests* all human rights bodies within the United Nations system, as well as the special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and working groups, to take duly into account the contents of the present resolution in carrying out their mandates;

7. *Expresses its conviction* that an unbiased and fair approach to human rights issues contributes to the promotion of international cooperation as well as to the effective promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. *Stresses*, in this context, the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

9. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective legal systems and in accordance with their obligations under international law, especially the Charter, and international human rights instruments, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to take duly into account the present resolution and to consider further proposals for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights, including the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, and to submit a comprehensive report on this issue to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

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[298] Resolution 217 A (III).

[299] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[300] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

12. *Decides* to consider this matter at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/106. Situation of human rights in Iraq

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[301] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[302]

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the duty to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Mindful that Iraq is a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, and to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[303]

Recalling its resolution 50/191 of 22 December 1995, in which it expressed its strong condemnation of the massive violations of human rights of the gravest nature in Iraq, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/72 of 23 April 1996,[304]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 688 (1991) of 5 April 1991, in which the Council demanded an end to the repression of the Iraqi civilian population and insisted that Iraq cooperate with humanitarian organizations and ensure that the human and political rights of all Iraqi citizens were respected,

Recalling Security Council resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 986 (1995) of 14 April 1995, by which the Council authorized States to permit imports of Iraqi oil up to the amount of one billion United States dollars every ninety days, on a renewable basis, to be used, *inter alia*, to purchase essential food and medical supplies for humanitarian purposes,

Deploring the refusal of the Government of Iraq to cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular by not receiving a return visit of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq and not allowing the stationing of human rights monitors throughout Iraq pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report on the situation of human rights in Iraq submitted by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq[305] and the observations, conclusions and recommendations contained therein, and noting his dismay that there has been no improvement in the situation of human rights in the country;

2. *Expresses its strong condemnation* of the massive and extremely grave violations of human rights for which the Government of Iraq is responsible, resulting in an all-pervasive order of repression and oppression which is sustained by broad-based discrimination and widespread terror;

3. *Expresses its condemnation* with regard to the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular of:

(*a*) Summary and arbitrary executions, including political killings;

(*b*) The widespread routine practice of systematic torture in its most cruel forms;

(*c*) The enactment and implementation of decrees prescribing cruel and unusual punishment, namely mutilation, as a penalty for certain offences and the abuse and diversion of medical-care services for the purpose of such mutilations;

(*d*) Enforced or involuntary disappearances, routinely practised arbitrary arrests and detention and consistent and routine failure to respect due process and the rule of law;

(*e*) Suppression of freedom of thought, information, expression, association and assembly through fear of arrest, imprisonment and other sanctions, including the death penalty, as well as harsh limitations to freedom of movement;

4. *Welcomes* the memorandum of understanding reached in May 1996 between Iraq and the Secretary-General to implement Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and to respond to the serious humanitarian situation in Iraq perpetuated by the non-compliance of the Government of Iraq with various Security Council resolutions;

5. *Urges* the Government of Iraq to cooperate with the United Nations with a view to ensuring the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995), in accordance with the agreement reached in May 1996 that medicines, health supplies, foodstuffs and other humanitarian supplies purchased with the proceeds of the sale of Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products be distributed to the Iraqi population equitably and on a non-discriminatory basis;

6. *Again expresses its special alarm* at the policies of the Government of Iraq, which discriminate between regions and prevent the equitable enjoyment of basic foodstuffs and medical supplies, and calls upon Iraq, which has sole responsibility in this regard, to take steps to cooperate with international humanitarian agencies in the provision of relief to those in need throughout Iraq;

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[301] Resolution 217 A (III).

[302] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[303] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[304] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[305] See A/51/496 and Add.1.

7. *Calls once again upon* Iraq, as a State party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[302] and to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[302] to abide by its freely undertaken obligations under the Covenants, under other international instruments on human rights and under international humanitarian law and, particularly, to respect and ensure the rights of all individuals, irrespective of their origin, within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction;

8. *Demands* that the Government of Iraq restore the independence of the judiciary and abrogate all laws granting impunity to specified forces or persons killing or injuring individuals for any purpose beyond the administration of justice under the rule of law as prescribed by international standards;

9. *Also demands* that the Government of Iraq abrogate any and all decrees that prescribe cruel and inhuman punishment or treatment and take every step necessary to ensure that the practice of torture and cruel and unusual punishments and treatment no longer occur;

10. *Urges* the Government of Iraq to abrogate all laws and procedures, including Revolution Command Council decree No. 840 of 4 November 1986, that penalize the free expression of competing views and ideas and to ensure that the genuine will of the people shall be the basis of authority in the State;

11. *Also urges* the Government of Iraq to improve its cooperation within the framework of the Tripartite Commission and its technical subcommittee with a view to establishing the whereabouts or resolving the fate of the remaining several hundred missing persons and prisoners of war, Kuwaitis and third-country nationals victims of the illegal Iraqi occupation of Kuwait;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance in carrying out his mandate and to approve the allocation of sufficient human and material resources for the sending of human rights monitors to such locations as would facilitate improved information flow and assessment and help in the independent verification of reports on the situation of human rights in Iraq;

13. *Decides*, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Iraq during its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/107. Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[306] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[307]

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[308] adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, reaffirmed that human rights and fundamental freedoms were the birthright of all human beings and that their protection and promotion was the first responsibility of Governments,

Reaffirming that all Member States have a duty to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Mindful that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling the appointment by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights of Mr. Maurice Danby Copithorne as Special Representative of the Commission on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Recalling its previous resolutions expressing concern at the violations of human rights by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the most recent, resolution 50/188 of 22 December 1995, the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, including the most recent, resolution 1996/84 of 24 April 1996,[309] and those of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, including the most recent, resolution 1996/7 of 20 August 1996,[310]

Welcoming the cooperation extended by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on freedom of opinion and expression, who have been able to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran, and bearing in mind the reports of those Special Rapporteurs on their visits,[311]

Taking note of the interim report of the Special Representative,[312] and noting that he will present a further report to the Commission on Human Rights,

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[306] Resolution 217 A (III).

[307] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[308] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[309] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[310] See E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41, chap. II, sect. A.

[311] E/CN.4/1996/95/Add.2 and E/CN.4/1996/39/Add.2.

[312] See A/51/479 and Add.1.

Welcoming the requests by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for technical assistance and advisory services from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights, as well as from the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat, and taking note with interest of the observation by the Special Representative in this regard,

Taking note with interest of certain recent developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran which, in the view of the Special Representative, are indicators of potential improvement of the status of women in that country,

Considering that continued international scrutiny of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Islamic Republic of Iran is warranted and that the subject should remain on the agenda of the General Assembly,

1. *Expresses its concern* at the continuing violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in particular the high number of executions in the absence of internationally recognized safeguards, cases of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the failure to meet international standards with regard to the administration of justice and the absence of due process of law, violations of the right to peaceful assembly and restrictions on the freedom of expression, thought, opinion and the press;

2. *Also expresses its concern* at the grave breaches of human rights of the Baha'is in the Islamic Republic of Iran and situations of discrimination against the members of this religious community, as well as at the discriminatory treatment of minorities by reason of their religious beliefs, including lack of adequate protection for the Christian minorities, some members of which have been the target of intimidation and assassination;

3. *Further expresses its concern* at the widespread discrimination against women in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the lack of full and equal enjoyment by women of human rights, and calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take effective measures to eliminate all discrimination against women;

4. *Urges* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a State party to the International Covenants on Human Rights, to abide by its freely undertaken obligations under the Covenants and under other international instruments on human rights and to ensure that all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including members of religious groups and persons belonging to minorities, enjoy all the rights enshrined in those instruments;

5. *Calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement fully the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief relating to the Baha'is and to other minority religious groups, including Christians;

6. *Expresses its grave concern* at indications, according to the information received by the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, of a significant toughening of criminal legislation and its application in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in particular at the incidence of capital punishment imposed for apostasy and non-violent crimes, in violation of the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[107] and United Nations safeguards;

7. *Expresses its concern* at the harassment and persecution of persons, including writers and members of the press, seeking to exercise their freedom of expression;

8. *Calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement existing agreements with international humanitarian organizations;

9. *Expresses its grave concern* that there are continuing threats to the life of Mr. Salman Rushdie, as well as to individuals associated with his work, which appear to have the support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, notes in this regard that efforts aimed at obtaining satisfactory written assurances from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that it does not support these threats have so far been unsuccessful, and calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide such assurances;

10. *Deplores* the politically motivated continuing violence against Iranians outside the Islamic Republic of Iran, and urges the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to refrain from activities against members of the Iranian opposition living abroad and the harassment of their relatives within the Islamic Republic of Iran and to cooperate wholeheartedly with the authorities of other countries in investigating and punishing offences reported by them;

11. *Welcomes* the cooperation extended by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Special Representative, who has been able to conduct a preliminary visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran;

12. *Expresses its hope* that the Special Representative will again be allowed to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran in the discharge of his mandate;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Representative to enable him to discharge his mandate fully;

14. *Decides*, on the basis of the report of the Special Representative and in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, to continue the examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups such as the Baha'is, during its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/108. Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[313] the International Covenants on Human Rights[314] and accepted humanitarian rules, as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[315] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[316]

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Recalling that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[317] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[314] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[314] the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[318] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child[319] and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[320]

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, as well as the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the decisions of the Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the special emphasis that the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan has placed on human rights issues in its discussions with the Afghan parties,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan[321] and of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. *Expresses concern* at the numerous and consistent reports of human rights abuses and violations of humanitarian law and human rights, including the rights to life, liberty and security of person, freedom from torture and from other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and freedom of opinion, expression and association;

3. *Expresses its deep concern* at the intensification of armed hostilities in Afghanistan, and calls on all parties involved immediately to cease such hostilities and to engage in a political dialogue aimed at achieving national reconciliation;

4. *Calls on* all the Afghan parties fully to respect and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in particular the right to life, liberty and security of person and freedom of opinion and expression;

5. *Urges* all the Afghan parties fully to respect accepted humanitarian rules and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of women and children, and calls upon the Afghan authorities to take measures to ensure the effective participation of women in social, political and cultural life throughout the country;

6. *Deeply deplores* the grave deterioration of the human rights of women noted by the Special Rapporteur in his report, and urges the Afghan authorities immediately to restore respect for all human rights of women, including the right of women to work and the right of girls to education without discrimination, and calls upon Afghanistan to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to which it is a signatory;

7. *Urges* all the Afghan parties to work closely with the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan with a view to achieving a comprehensive political solution leading to the eventual establishment of a democratic Government elected through free and fair elections based on the right to self-determination of the peoples of Afghanistan;

8. *Demands* that all Afghan parties fulfil their obligations and commitments regarding the safety of United Nations personnel and other international personnel as well as their premises in Afghanistan and cooperate fully with the United Nations and associated bodies as well as with other humanitarian organizations and agencies;

9. *Strongly urges* all parties to the conflict to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of all personnel of humanitarian organizations and representatives of the media in Afghanistan;

10. *Endorses* the Special Rapporteur's condemnation of the abduction from United Nations premises of the former President of Afghanistan, Mr. Najibullah, and of his brother, and of their subsequent summary execution;

11. *Urges* the Afghan authorities to provide efficient and effective remedies to the victims of grave violations of human rights and of accepted humanitarian rules and to bring their perpetrators to trial in accordance with internationally accepted standards;

12. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to entrust the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation with the mandate, upon the invitation and with the cooperation of the Afghan authorities, of examining ways and means to restore the Kabul Museum, including through the tracing of the country's stolen articles, to propose measures aimed at preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of artefacts belonging to the Kabul Museum and to

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[313] Resolution 217 A (III).

[314] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[315] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[316] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[317] Resolution 260 A (III).

[318] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[319] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[320] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[321] See A/51/481.

report thereon to the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

13. *Appeals* to Member States and to the international community to provide adequate humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan and to the Afghan refugees in the neighbouring countries, pending, and with a view to encouraging, their voluntary repatriation;

14. *Urges* the authorities in Afghanistan to continue to extend their cooperation to the Commission on Human Rights and to its Special Rapporteur;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur;

16. *Decides* to keep the situation of human rights in Afghanistan under consideration at its fifty-second session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/109. Situation of human rights in Nigeria

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[322] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[323] the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[324] adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, and other human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that all Member States have the duty to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Recalling that Nigeria is a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[325]

Recalling its resolution 50/199 of 22 December 1995, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/79 of 23 April 1996 on the situation of human rights in Nigeria,[326] including the absence of representative government in Nigeria contrary to the popular support for democratic government as evidenced in the 1993 elections,

Also recalling the announcement made by the Government of Nigeria on 1 October 1995, in which it affirmed the principle of multi-party democracy, the principle of power-sharing and its intention to lift the ban on political activities and the press, to devolve power to the local levels of government and to subordinate the military to civilian authority,

Welcoming the report of the mission sent to Nigeria by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 50/199, and noting the interim response of the Government of Nigeria to that mission,

Welcoming also the resumption of dialogue between Nigeria and the Commonwealth,

Noting the action taken to date to move towards a system of multi-party democracy, including the registration of five political parties and the intention to hold elections, on a party basis, to the local councils in December 1996, as well as the release of a number of detainees and the repeal or amendment of measures which were seen as obstacles to human rights,

Regretting, however, that a number of political associations have been instructed to disband on the grounds that they did not meet the requirements stipulated in the transition process,

Taking note with appreciation of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the independence of judges and lawyers and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,[327]

Noting with deep concern reports of grave violations of human rights, including extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and arbitrary detention, and failure to respect due process of law, as described in, *inter alia*, reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, as well as in the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee,[328]

Stressing the importance of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to undertake a joint investigative mission to Nigeria, as requested by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1996/79,

Concerned that, despite a number of legislative and procedural measures taken to reform the system of administration of justice, persons in detention in Nigeria continue to face a flawed judicial process, and recalling in this regard the arbitrary execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his associates,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* about violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Nigeria, and calls upon the Government of Nigeria urgently to ensure their observance, including by releasing all political prisoners, trade union leaders, human rights advocates and journalists who are at present detained, guaranteeing freedom of the press and

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[322] Resolution 217 A (III).

[323] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[324] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[325] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[326] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[327] See A/51/538.

[328] See CCPR/C/79/Add.65.

ensuring respect for the rights of all individuals, including persons belonging to minorities;

2. *Calls upon* the Government of Nigeria to ensure that trials are held strictly in conformity with the international human rights instruments to which Nigeria is a party;

3. *Also calls upon* the Government of Nigeria to abide by its freely undertaken obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other human rights instruments, including the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights, and notes with interest in this regard the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee to the Government of Nigeria;[328]

4. *Further calls upon* the Government of Nigeria to implement fully its interim undertakings to the Secretary-General without further delay and to respond in full to the recommendations of the Secretary-General's mission to Nigeria;

5. *Regrets* that the Government of Nigeria has not enabled the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the independence of judges and lawyers and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to visit the country before presentation of their report to the General Assembly, and urges the Government of Nigeria to cooperate fully with them during the joint investigative mission to Nigeria mandated by the Commission on Human Rights and with the relevant mechanisms of the Commission;

6. *Notes* the declared commitment of the Government of Nigeria to civilian rule, and urges it to take further concrete steps to restore democratic government;

7. *Welcomes* the intention of the Secretary-General to pursue his good offices, and requests the Secretary-General in the discharge of his good offices mandate and in cooperation with the Commonwealth to continue to undertake further discussion with the Government of Nigeria and to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution and on the possibilities for the international community to offer practical assistance to Nigeria to achieve the restoration of democratic rule and the full enjoyment of human rights in Nigeria;

8. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/110. Human rights in Haiti

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[329] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[330]

Recalling its resolution 50/196 of 22 December 1995, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/58 of 19 April 1996,[331]

Taking into account the report of the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Haiti, Mr. Adama Dieng,[332] appointed to assist the Government of Haiti in the area of human rights, to consider the development of the human rights situation in that country and to verify compliance by it with its obligations in that field, and the recommendations contained in that report,

Recognizing the important contributions of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti, the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti and the National Commission for Truth and Justice to the establishment of a climate of freedom and tolerance propitious to the respect for human rights and the restoration and spread of democracy in Haiti,

Welcoming the renewal by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/86 C of 29 August 1996 of the mandate of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti,

Welcoming also the improvements in the situation of human rights in Haiti, and noting the policy statements by Haitian authorities that the Government of Haiti remains committed to upholding human rights and improving accountability,

Expressing concern at the increase in common crime, and noting the continuing need for technical training of the Haitian National Police and for strengthening of the judicial system,

Expressing its satisfaction with the invitation to visit the country extended by the Government of Haiti to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

Considering the request of the Government of Haiti for technical assistance and advisory services in the field of human rights addressed to the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat,

1. *Expresses* its thanks to the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Haiti for their efforts in favour of the consolidation of democratic institutions in Haiti and the respect of human rights in that country;

2. *Welcomes* the satisfactory evolution of the political process in Haiti and the holding of presidential elections on 17 December 1995, which permitted the first transfer of power between two democratically elected Presidents;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Haiti and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;[332]

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[329] Resolution 217 A (III).

[330] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[331] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[332] E/CN.4/1996/94.

4. *Expresses its concern* about recent and other persistent security challenges to Haitian society caused, *inter alia*, by difficult economic and social conditions, which threaten progress in the field of human rights and democratic stability in the country;

5. *Welcomes* the report of the National Commission for Truth and Justice, as well as reports by the International Civilian Mission to Haiti on Haitian justice and on respect for human rights by the Haitian National Police, and urges the Government of Haiti to undertake appropriate follow-up action on the recommendations contained in these reports, with the support of the international community;

6. *Supports* the Government of Haiti's ongoing process of reform of the judicial system, including instructions in international human rights law and human rights;

7. *Requests* the international community, including the United Nations Development Programme, to continue providing funds for the reform of the judicial system and for those activities that contribute to the social and economic development of Haitian society;

8. *Encourages* the international community to contribute generously to the United Nations trust fund for the Haitian National Police, which will be needed to respond to the request of the Government of Haiti for a technical adviser programme;

9. *Welcomes* the establishment of the programme of technical cooperation prepared by the Centre for Human Rights aimed at strengthening institutional capacity in the field of human rights, in particular in the areas of legislative reform, training of justice administration personnel and human rights education, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of this programme to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

10. *Invites* the international community, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to continue their involvement in the reconstruction and development of Haiti;

11. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to consider favourably the invitation to visit the country extended to him by the Government of Haiti, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund;

12. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Haiti at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/111. Situation of human rights in Kosovo

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[333] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[334] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[335] the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide[336] and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[337]

Taking note with concern of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, which describe the continuing grave human rights situation in Kosovo, including in particular police brutality, killings resulting from such violence, arbitrary searches and arrests, torture and ill-treatment of detainees, the deliberate maltreatment, persecution and imprisonment of political and human rights activists, the mass dismissals of civil servants and discrimination against pupils and teachers, acts which are mainly perpetrated against ethnic Albanians,

Welcoming, as a first step, the recent signature of a memorandum of understanding concerning the educational system in the Albanian language in Kosovo, and calling for the proper implementation of that memorandum,

Appreciating efforts to monitor the situation in Kosovo, but at the same time expressing regret that the establishment of an adequate international monitoring presence in Kosovo has not yet been achieved,

Recalling its resolution 50/190 of 22 December 1995 and other relevant resolutions, and taking note of the resolutions on the matter adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and the resolution adopted by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-eighth session,[338]

1. *Condemns* all violations of human rights in Kosovo, in particular repression of the ethnic Albanian population and discrimination against them, as well as all acts of violence in Kosovo;

2. *Demands* that the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro):

(*a*) Take all necessary measures to bring to an immediate end all human rights violations against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, in particular the discriminatory measures and practices, arbitrary searches and detention, the violation of the right to a fair trial and the practice of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and to revoke all discriminatory legislation, in particular that which has entered into force since 1989;

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[333] Resolution 217 A (III).

[334] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[335] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[336] Resolution 260 A (III).

[337] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[338] E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41, chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1996/2.

(*b*) Release all political prisoners and cease the persecution of political leaders and members of local human rights organizations;

(*c*) Allow the establishment of genuine democratic institutions in Kosovo, including the parliament and the judiciary, and respect the will of its inhabitants as the best means of preventing the escalation of the conflict there;

(*d*) Allow the reopening of educational, cultural and scientific institutions of the ethnic Albanians;

(*e*) Pursue constructive dialogue with the representatives of ethnic Albanians of Kosovo;

3. *Welcomes* the visits to Kosovo of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and her relevant reports, and calls upon her to continue to monitor closely the human rights situation in Kosovo and to continue to pay due attention to this matter in her reporting;

4. *Urges* the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to allow the immediate unconditional return of the mission of long duration of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to Kosovo, called for in Security Council resolution 855 (1993) of 9 August 1993;

5. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 50/190,[339] and requests him to continue his efforts to seek ways and means, including through consultations with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant regional organizations, to establish an adequate international monitoring presence in Kosovo and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to pursue his humanitarian efforts in the former Yugoslavia, in liaison with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and other appropriate humanitarian organizations, with a view to taking urgent practical steps to tackle the critical needs of the people in Kosovo, especially of the most vulnerable groups affected by the conflict, and to assist in the voluntary return of displaced persons to their homes in conditions of safety and dignity;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of laws and regulations concerning citizenship applied by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) being in accordance with the standards and principles of non-discrimination, equal protection before the law and the reduction and avoidance of statelessness, as set out in the relevant international human rights instruments;

8. *Decides* to continue examination of the human rights situation in Kosovo at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/112. Situation of human rights in the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[340] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[341] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[342] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[343]

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to comply with the obligations laid down in the various instruments in this field,

Recalling the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian law,

Recalling also its resolution 50/197 of 22 December 1995, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/73 of 23 April 1996,[344]

Noting with deep concern reports of grave human rights violations in the Sudan, in particular summary executions, detentions without trial, forced displacement of persons and torture, as described in reports submitted to the Commission on Human Rights by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Welcoming the fourth and latest interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan,[345] and noting with concern the continuing violations of human rights in the Sudan,

Concerned about continuing deliberate and indiscriminate aerial bombardments by the Government of the Sudan of civilian targets in southern Sudan, in clear violation of international humanitarian law, which have added to the suffering of the civilian population and resulted in casualties to civilians, including relief workers involved in Operation

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[339] A/51/556.

[340] Resolution 217 A (III).

[341] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[342] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[343] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[344] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[345] See A/51/490.

Lifeline Sudan and with international private voluntary agencies,

Welcoming the lifting, in July 1996, of restrictions on aircraft employed to deliver humanitarian assistance, yet deeply concerned by the continued denial of flight clearances to affected areas, which exacerbates the threat to human life,

Alarmed by the large number of internally displaced persons and victims of discrimination in the Sudan, including members of ethnic minorities who have been forcibly displaced in violation of their human rights and who are in need of relief assistance and protection,

Noting that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan and the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief carried out missions to the Sudan in 1996, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/197,

Deeply concerned by the conclusion of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, also stated in his previous reports, that grave and widespread violations of human rights by government agents, as well as abuses by members of parties to the conflict in southern Sudan other than the Government of the Sudan, continue to take place in the zones controlled by them, including extrajudicial killings, enforced or involuntary disappearances, abductions, slavery, systematic torture and widespread arbitrary arrests of suspected political opponents, as well as restrictions on religious minorities,[346]

Welcoming the establishment by the Government of the Sudan of the Special Investigation Committee on Allegations of Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and Reported Cases of Slavery,

Alarmed by the continuing failure of the Sudanese authorities to investigate human rights violations and abuses brought to their attention over the past years,

Gravely alarmed that since February 1994 there have been increasing reports from a wide variety of sources indicating that atrocities by the Government of the Sudan against the local population in the area of the Nuba Mountains have intensified,

Welcoming the commitment of the Government of the Sudan to facilitate the improved flow of information, as well as its stated strong commitment to cooperate with the competent United Nations bodies and agencies, as well as with the Special Rapporteur;

Concerned by reports of religious persecution in areas of the conflict zone controlled by the Government of the Sudan and of discrimination based upon religion in the provision of shelter and relief,

Deeply concerned by the Special Rapporteur's conclusion that the abduction of persons, mainly women and children belonging to ethnic and religious minorities from southern Sudan, the Nuba Mountains and the Ingassena Hills area, and their subjection to the slave trade, servitude and forced labour are taking place with the knowledge of the Government of the Sudan,

Welcoming the dialogue and contacts between non-governmental organizations and the religious minorities in the Sudan aimed at improving relations between the Government of the Sudan and the religious minority groups,

Noting that the Government of the Sudan has taken steps towards a larger degree of cooperation with some international organizations, with special attention to the rights of Sudanese children, and hoping that these efforts will be enhanced in the future,

Deeply concerned about the problem of unaccompanied minors and the use of children as soldiers by all parties, despite repeated calls from the international community to put an end to this practice, as described in the report of the Special Rapporteur,[347]

1. *Expresses deep concern* at the serious, widespread and continuing human rights violations in the Sudan, including extrajudicial killings and summary executions, detentions without due process, violations of the rights of women and children, forced displacement of persons, enforced or involuntary disappearances, torture and other forms of cruel and unusual punishment, slavery, practices similar to slavery and forced labour, denial of the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly and discrimination based on religion;

2. *Calls upon* the Government of the Sudan to comply with applicable international human rights instruments to which the Sudan is a party, in particular the International Covenants on Human Rights,[341] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[342] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[343] the Slavery Convention, as amended,[348] and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,[349] to implement those instruments to which it is a party and to ensure that all individuals in its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including members of all religious and ethnic groups, enjoy fully the rights recognized in those instruments;

3. *Urges* the Government of the Sudan to ensure that all cases of slavery, servitude, slave trade, forced labour and similar practices brought to its attention are investigated and all appropriate measures are implemented to put an immediate end to these practices;

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[346] Ibid., chap. III, sect. A.

[347] Ibid., chap. II, sect. K, para. 34.

[348] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 212, No. 2861.

[349] Ibid., vol. 266, No. 3822.

4. *Expresses its hope* that the Special Investigation Committee on Allegations of Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and Reported Cases of Slavery will contribute effectively to improving the human rights situation in the Sudan;

5. *Welcomes* the statement by the Government of the Sudan, as reported by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan,[350] in which it pledged its logistical support to national, regional and international organizations that join the investigations of alleged cases of involuntary disappearance and slavery, and, accordingly, calls upon the Government to grant international human rights and humanitarian organizations and independent observers free and unimpeded access to all areas where these violations have been reported;

6. *Welcomes* the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan to the General Assembly and his recent report to the Commission on Human Rights,[351] and expresses its continuing support for his work;

7. *Continues to urge* the placement of human rights monitors in such locations as will facilitate improved information flow and assessment and independent verification of reporting, with particular attention to violations and abuses of human rights in areas of armed conflict, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur;[352]

8. *Urges* the Government of the Sudan to cease immediately all aerial attacks on civilian targets and other attacks that are in violation of international humanitarian law;

9. *Calls upon* parties to the hostilities to respect fully the applicable provisions of international humanitarian law, including article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[353] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[354] to halt the use of weapons against the civilian population and to protect all civilians, including women, children and members of ethnic and religious minorities, from violations, including forcible displacement, arbitrary detention, ill-treatment, torture and summary executions, and deplores the consequences for innocent civilians of the use of landmines by government and rebel forces alike;

10. *Again calls upon* the Government of the Sudan and all parties to allow Operation Lifeline Sudan, international agencies, humanitarian organizations and donor Governments unimpeded access to the civilian population so as to permit the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all persons in need;

11. *Welcomes* the reported release of female detainees with children and any other activities designed to assist such persons, and encourages the Government of the Sudan to work actively for the eradication of practices that are directed against and in particular violate the human rights of women and girls, in full cooperation with the international organizations active in the Sudan and focusing on the question, including the office of the United Nations Children's Fund in Khartoum;

12. *Urges* the Government of the Sudan to take all steps necessary to improve the situation of the most vulnerable groups of the society, the women, children and ethnic and religious minorities living in the conflict zones, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur;[355]

13. *Urges* all parties to the civil war in the Sudan to seek a negotiated settlement to the conflict immediately, and encourages the parties to cooperate with efforts by the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development to assist the warring parties to put an end to the conflict and hasten a return of Sudanese refugees residing in neighbouring countries;

14. *Reiterates its call upon* the Government of the Sudan to ensure a full, thorough and prompt investigation by an independent judicial commission of inquiry into the killings of Sudanese nationals employed by foreign relief organizations and foreign Governments;

15. *Urges* the Government of the Sudan to cooperate fully with all United Nations agencies, international humanitarian organizations, human rights organizations and independent observers to improve the situation of human rights in the Sudan, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur;[356]

16. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for an additional year;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary assistance in the discharge of his mandate;

18. *Welcomes* the approaches to the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights by the Government of the Sudan, and again calls upon the Government of the Sudan to extend its full and unreserved cooperation to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan and to the thematic Special Rapporteurs, to assist them in the ongoing discharge of their mandates and, to this end, to take all necessary steps to ensure that the Special Rapporteurs have free and unlimited access to the whole territory of the Sudan and to any person in the Sudan with whom they wish to meet, with no threats or reprisals;

19. *Recommends* the continued monitoring of the serious human rights situation in the Sudan and of the regional efforts to end the hostilities and human suffering in the south, and invites the Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-third session, to give urgent attention to the situation of human rights in the Sudan;

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[350] See A/51/490, chap. III, sect. A, para. 43 (*b*).

[351] E/CN.4/1996/62.

[352] See A/51/490, chap. III, sect. B, para. 52 (*c*).

[353] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[354] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[355] See A/51/490, chap. III, sect. B, para. 52 (*d*).

[356] Ibid., sect. B, para. 52 (*e*).

20. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/113. Situation of human rights in Cuba

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[357]and other applicable human rights instruments,

Noting that Cuba is a party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[358]

Reaffirming also that all States have an obligation to fulfil the commitments they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Taking particular note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/69 of 23 April 1996,[359] in which the Commission recognized with deep appreciation the past efforts of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cuba and extended his mandate for one year,

Expressing concern about continuing serious violations of human rights in Cuba, the majority of which are violations of civil and political rights, as outlined in the interim report on the situation of human rights in Cuba submitted to the General Assembly by the Special Rapporteur,[360]

Deploring, in this regard, the arbitrary arrest, detention and harassment of Cuban citizens, particularly members of the Concilio Cubano, a group coordinating the activities of dozens of human rights groups, seeking to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the continued refusal of the Government of Cuba to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights with regard to its resolution 1996/69, including its repeated opposition to a visit to Cuba by the Special Rapporteur,

1. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights for his interim report on the situation of human rights in Cuba;

2. *Expresses its full support* for the work of the Special Rapporteur;

3. *Calls once more upon* the Government of Cuba to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur by permitting him full and free access to establish contact with the Government and the citizens of Cuba so that he may fulfil the mandate entrusted to him;

4. *Regrets profoundly* the numerous violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba, as described in the report of the Special Rapporteur to the Commission on Human Rights[361]and in his interim report;[360]

5. *Urges* the Government of Cuba to ensure freedom of expression and assembly and the freedom to demonstrate peacefully, including by allowing political parties and non-governmental organizations to function freely in the country and by reforming legislation in this area;

6. *Calls especially upon* the Government of Cuba to release the numerous persons detained for activities of a political nature, including those specifically mentioned in the report of the Special Rapporteur, who suffer from inadequate medical care while imprisoned or whose rights as journalists or jurists are impeded or denied;

7. *Calls upon* the Government of Cuba to carry out the recommendations contained in the interim report of the Special Rapporteur to bring its observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba into conformity with international standards and applicable international human rights instruments and to end all violations of human rights including, in particular, the detention and imprisonment of human rights defenders and others who are engaged in the peaceful exercise of their rights, and to grant access to its prisons to non-governmental humanitarian organizations and international humanitarian agencies;

8. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/114. Situation of human rights in Rwanda

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[362]the International Covenants on Human Rights,[363]the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide[364]and other applicable standards of human rights and humanitarian law,

Recalling its resolutions 50/57 of 12 December 1995 and 50/200 of 22 December 1995, and taking note of Security Council resolutions 1050 (1996) of 8 March 1996, 1078 (1996) of 9 November 1996 and 1080 (1996) of 15 November

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[357] Resolution 217 A (III).

[358] Resolution 39/76, annex.

[359] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[360] A/51/460, annex.

[361] E/CN.4/1996/60.

[362] Resolution 217 A (III).

[363] Resolution 2200 A (XXII), annex.

[364] Resolution 260 A (III).

1996, and of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/76 of 23 April 1996,[365]

Deeply concerned by the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda that genocide and systematic and widespread violations of international humanitarian law, including crimes against humanity and grave violations and abuses of human rights, were committed in Rwanda,

Recognizing that effective action must be taken to ensure that the perpetrators of genocide and crimes against humanity are promptly brought to justice, and noting in this regard that legislation to govern the prosecution of those accused of genocide or crimes against humanity entered into force on 1 September 1996,

Noting with concern the implications of the current humanitarian crisis in the region,

Welcoming the fact that considerable numbers of refugees have recently returned to Rwanda, and affirming the readiness of the international community to assist the Government of Rwanda in reintegrating these returnees,

Recognizing that effective action to prevent further violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms must be a central and integral element of the overall Rwandan and United Nations responses to the situation in Rwanda and that a strengthened human rights component is indispensable to the peace process and post-conflict reconstruction of Rwanda,

Welcoming contributions made by Member States and the European Union to the costs of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda,

Welcoming also the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to protect and promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to eliminate impunity and to facilitate the process of the voluntary and safe return, resettlement and reintegration of refugees, as reaffirmed in the agreements reached at Nairobi, Bujumbura and Cairo in 1995 and at Tunis and Arusha in 1996, and urging Governments in the region to work, in cooperation with the international community, to find durable solutions to the refugee crisis,

Stressing its concern that the United Nations should continue to play an active role in assisting the Government of Rwanda in facilitating the voluntary and orderly return of refugees and the reintegration of returnees, in promoting reconciliation, in consolidating a climate of confidence and stability and in promoting the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Rwanda,

Reaffirming the link between the voluntary return of refugees to their homes and the normalization of the situation in Rwanda, and concerned that acts of intimidation and violence directed against refugees, particularly by the former Rwandan authorities, have prevented refugees from returning to their homes,

Noting the United Nations support for all efforts to reduce tension and restore stability in the Great Lakes region, including initiatives of the Organization of African Unity, States in the region and international organizations, and reiterating the urgent need for an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, to address the problems of the region in a comprehensive manner,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda[366] and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights;[367]

I

2. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the acts of genocide, violations of international humanitarian law and all violations and abuses of human rights that have taken place in Rwanda, as well as cross-border violence in the region;

3. *Expresses its deep concern* at the intense suffering of the victims of genocide and crimes against humanity, recognizes the ongoing suffering of their survivors, particularly the extremely high number of traumatized children and women victims of rape and sexual violence, and urges the international community to provide adequate assistance to them and to note the priorities identified by the Government of Rwanda in this area;

4. *Reaffirms* that all persons who committed or authorized acts of genocide or other grave violations of international humanitarian law and those who are responsible for grave violations of human rights are individually responsible and accountable for those violations and that the international community must exert every effort, in cooperation with national and international tribunals, to bring those responsible to justice, in accordance with international principles of due process;

5. *Urges* all States to cooperate fully, without delay, with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States, between 1 January and 31 December 1994, taking into account the obligations contained in Security Council resolutions 955 (1994) of 8 November 1994 and 978 (1995) of 27 February 1995, and encourages the Secretary-General to facilitate the activities of the Tribunal to the greatest extent possible;

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[365] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[366] A/51/478, annex.

[367] A/51/657.

II

6. *Encourages* the further efforts of the Government of Rwanda to reconstruct the civil administration and the social, legal, economic and human rights infrastructure of Rwanda, and in this regard welcomes the commitments made by the Government of Rwanda to restore the rule of law and protect and promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Invites* all States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue and to intensify their contributions of financial and technical support to accelerate the efforts of the Government of Rwanda to, *inter alia*, restore the judicial system, promote reconciliation through the recently established Commission for National Reconciliation and safely reintegrate returning refugees in conditions of safety and dignity, including addressing competing claims to housing and property;

8. *Notes with concern* the human rights situation in Rwanda as described in the report of the Special Rapporteur, and urges the Government of Rwanda to take all necessary measures in response to the recommendations therein;

9. *Expresses grave concern* at reports from the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda of killings of civilians during attacks on survivors and witnesses of genocide, apparently by militias and insurgents opposed to the Government of Rwanda, and at the reports of the Field Operation which state that civilians have been killed during military search operations by the Rwandese Patriotic Army;

10. *Encourages* the Government of Rwanda to continue in its efforts to further strengthen the judicial system, including its independence, and urges in particular that the processing of the cases of those in detention be brought to a conclusion expeditiously;

11. *Notes with deep concern* the reports of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda which state that government officials without legal authority to arrest or imprison continue to do so in several parts of the country, that detainees are held for very long periods before trial and that acute overcrowding threatens the safety of those in detention;

12. *Invites* the Government of Rwanda to continue efforts to involve, without any discrimination, all citizens not responsible for genocide or other grave violations of international humanitarian law in its administrative, judicial, political and security structures;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance it attaches to the safety and security of all people in Rwanda, including United Nations personnel and other international staff serving in the country;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Rwanda, neighbouring countries, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the international community to resolve the ongoing humanitarian crisis, and calls upon all parties to take all appropriate measures to ensure the return, resettlement and reintegration of former refugees in conditions of safety and dignity;

15. *Commends and encourages* the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as well as the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations offices and organizations to coordinate their efforts to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of refugees during their return, resettlement and reintegration;

III

16. *Welcomes* the measures taken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, working in cooperation with and assisting the Government of Rwanda, to put in place the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda, the objectives of which were described in resolution 50/200, and requests the High Commissioner to continue to report regularly on the activities of the Field Operation and to continue to cooperate and share information with the Special Rapporteur, in order to assist him in fulfilling his mandate;

17. *Welcomes also* the cooperation the Government of Rwanda has extended to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur and the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda and the acceptance by the Government of Rwanda of the deployment of human rights field officers throughout the country and, with a view to further strengthening a climate of mutual confidence and enabling authorities in Rwanda to take immediate action on the findings of the Field Operation, encourages dialogue on human rights issues between the Field Operation and the appropriate authorities at the level of commune, prefecture and relevant government ministries;

18. *Commends* the contribution of human rights officers and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the promotion and protection of human rights in Rwanda, recognizes that a strong human rights component is an integral and indispensable element of the United Nations response to the situation in Rwanda, and encourages all agencies and organizations of the United Nations system active in Rwanda to coordinate closely with the Field Operation;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda in contributing to reconciliation and the establishment of confidence in the country, recommends the strengthening of its presence throughout Rwanda as well as the allocation of sufficient funds and logistical support for that purpose, taking into account the need to train local human rights observers and deploy a sufficient number of human rights field officers, recognizes also the need for programmes of technical assistance and advisory services for and in consultation with the Government of Rwanda and for Rwandan human rights organizations, and notes in particular the importance of strengthening the institutional capacity of the Rwandan judiciary and the urgent need for adequate resources in this area;

20. *Calls upon* all States to respond to the appeal of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and

contribute urgently to the costs of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda and to work for lasting solutions to its financing problems, including through the regular budget of the United Nations;

21. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on the activities of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/115. Rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[368] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[369] the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[370] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[371] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[372] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[373] and other instruments of human rights and international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[374] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[375]

Recalling its resolution 3074 (XXVIII) of 3 December 1973, entitled "Principles of international cooperation in the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity", as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/77 of 9 March 1994,[376] General Assembly resolutions 48/143 of 20 December 1993, 49/205 of 23 December 1994 and 50/192 of 22 December 1995, and relevant resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 798 (1992) of 18 December 1992, in which, *inter alia*, the Council strongly condemned those acts of unspeakable brutality,

Welcoming the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, signed in Paris on 14 December 1995,[377] as a key mechanism for achieving a durable and just peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Taking note of the previous report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, regarding rape and abuse of women in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which, *inter alia*, states that only sporadic cases of rape and sexual violence have occurred since the previous report of the Secretary-General,[378]

Convinced that the heinous practice of rape, in fulfilling the policy of ethnic cleansing, constitutes a deliberate weapon of war, and recalling its resolution 47/121 of 18 December 1992, in which it stated, *inter alia*, that the abhorrent policy of ethnic cleansing was a form of genocide,

Desirous of ensuring that persons accused of authorizing, aiding and perpetrating rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia will be brought to justice without further delay by the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, where appropriate,

Underlining, in this context, the need for the protection of the rape victims and the provision of effective guarantees of privacy and confidentiality of the rape victims, and desirous of facilitating their participation in the proceedings of the International Tribunal and ensuring that further traumatization will be prevented,

Deeply alarmed at the situation facing victims of rape in armed conflicts in different parts of the world and any use of rape as a weapon of war, in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Governments and the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations aimed at supporting the victims of rape and abuse and alleviating their suffering,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 25 October 1996,[379] submitted pursuant to resolution 50/192,

1. *Strongly condemns* the abhorrent practice of rape and abuse of women and children in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia, which constitutes a war crime;

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[368] Resolution 217 A (III).

[369] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[370] Resolution 260 A (III).

[371] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[372] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[373] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[374] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[375] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[376] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1994/24 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[377] See A/50/790-S/1995/999; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/999.

[378] A/50/329.

[379] A/51/557.

2. *Expresses its outrage* that the deliberate and systematic practice of rape has been used as a weapon of war and an instrument of ethnic cleansing against women and children in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

3. *Reaffirms* that rape in the conduct of armed conflict constitutes a war crime and that under certain circumstances it constitutes a crime against humanity and an act of genocide as defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and calls upon States to take all measures required for the protection of women and children from such acts and to strengthen mechanisms to investigate and punish all those responsible and bring the perpetrators to justice;

4. *Also reaffirms* that all persons who perpetrate or authorize crimes against humanity or other violations of international humanitarian law are individually responsible for those violations and that those in positions of authority who have failed to ensure that persons under their control comply with the relevant international instruments are accountable, together with the perpetrators;

5. *Reminds* all States of their obligation to cooperate with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 in the investigation and prosecution of persons accused of using rape as a weapon of war;

6. *Calls upon* States to put experts, including experts in the prosecution of crimes of sexual violence, as well as adequate resources and services, at the disposal of the International Tribunal;

7. *Urges* all States and relevant organizations to continue to give serious consideration to the recommendations in the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia, in particular the recommendation concerning provision for the continuation of necessary medical and psychological care to victims of rape within the framework of programmes to rehabilitate women and children traumatized by war, as well as the provision of protection, counselling and support to victims and witnesses;

8. *Recognizes* the extraordinary suffering of the victims of rape and sexual violence and the necessity for an appropriate response to provide assistance to those victims, and expresses its concern, in particular, for the welfare of those victims who are currently among the internally displaced or otherwise affected by the war and who have experienced severe trauma and require psychosocial and other assistance;

9. *Also urges* all States and all relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, to continue to provide to the victims of such rape and abuse appropriate assistance for their physical and mental rehabilitation and to extend their support to the community-based assistance programmes;

10. *Demands* that the parties cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights and her staff, as well as other mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the monitoring and other missions of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including by providing full access;

11. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to pay particular attention to this question, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/116. Situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[380] the International Covenants on Human Rights[381] and all other human rights instruments and instruments of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[382] for the protection of victims of war and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[383] as well as the principles and commitments undertaken by participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil their obligations under the human rights instruments to which they are party, and reaffirming also the obligation of all to respect international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming also the territorial integrity of all States in the region, within their internationally recognized borders,

Welcoming the entry into force and implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto, initialled at Dayton, Ohio, on 21 November 1995 and signed by Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), representing also the

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[380] Resolution 217 A (III).

[381] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[382] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[383] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

Bosnian Serb party, in Paris on 14 December 1995 (collectively the "Peace Agreement"),[384] which, *inter alia*, committed the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to respect fully human rights,

Welcoming also the efforts of Member States in assisting in the implementation of the Peace Agreement through their participation in the Implementation Force and other activities directed at resolving the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, and commending the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the implementation of the mandates with which it was entrusted by the Peace Agreement,

Welcoming further the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (the "Basic Agreement"),[385] signed on 12 November 1995 by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the local Serb representatives, which created conditions permitting the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium, and Security Council resolution 1037 (1996) of 15 January 1996, by which the Council established the Transitional Administration,

Welcoming the participation of Member States in the Transitional Administration and other activities intended to facilitate implementation of the Basic Agreement and the transition of the region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium from local Serb control to control by the Republic of Croatia,

Recognizing the positive effects that the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the Basic Agreement have had on the region since their respective entry into force, in particular the return of peace to the region and the increasing normalization of social, political and economic life,

Taking note of the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro),[386] in particular article 7 thereof, which, *inter alia*, ensures conditions for the return of refugees and displaced persons and the return of their property or a just compensation, and in that context stressing the positive impact of mutual recognition agreements among successor States of the former Yugoslavia,

Welcoming the holding of elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 14 September 1996 with the assistance of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other organizations,

Gravely concerned nonetheless at the continuing evidence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro),

Stressing the importance of an effective functioning of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 808 (1993) of 22 February 1993 and 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993, for the positive development of the situation of human rights in the region,

Acknowledging the progress made by the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards ethnic reconciliation in the region,

Calling upon all parties to the Peace Agreement to implement the necessary measures in the furtherance of ethnic reconciliation in their respective territories,

Encouraging the international community, acting through the United Nations and other international organizations as well as bilaterally, to enhance significantly humanitarian support for the people of the region and to promote human rights, economic reconstruction, the repatriation of refugees and the holding of free elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Welcoming the efforts of the European Union to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and endorsing the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur that economic and other aid must be made conditional on meaningful progress on human rights,

Underlining the relationship between the fulfilment by the parties of their human rights commitments and the readiness of the international community to commit resources for reconstruction and development,

Dismayed by the large number of missing persons still unaccounted for, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Republic of Croatia, and noting with approval the establishment of the International Commission on Missing Persons in the Former Yugoslavia and the efforts of the expert member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and of the working and expert groups on the missing, chaired respectively by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the High Representative,

Expressing its particular concern for the situation of women and also that of children, the elderly and refugees, internally displaced persons and minorities, as well as other vulnerable groups in the region,

Calling attention to the reports and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Mrs. Elisabeth Rehn, on the situation of human rights in the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), including her most recent reports of 4 November

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[384] See A/50/790-S/1995/999; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/999.

[385] See A/50/757-S/1995/951; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/951.

[386] A/51/318-S/1996/706, annex, and A/51/351-S/1996/744, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1996*, documents S/1996/706 and S/1996/744.

1996[387] and 12 November 1996,[388] and especially the recommendations set forth therein,

Acknowledging efforts made by the Governments of the region to meet the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, which have yet to be implemented fully,

Recalling the report on the situation of human rights in Croatia[389] submitted to the Security Council in pursuance of Council resolution 1019 (1995) of 9 November 1995,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/192 and 50/193 of 22 December 1995, Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/71 of 23 April 1996[390] and all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, especially resolutions 1009 (1995) of 10 August 1995 and 1079 (1996) of 15 November 1996,

1. *Expresses its serious concern* about continuing human rights violations within Bosnia and Herzegovina and the delays in fully implementing the human rights provisions of the Peace Agreement;

2. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the continued forcible expulsion of individuals from their homes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as has happened recently in Banja Luka and Mostar, and the practice of destroying the homes of those previously forcibly expelled, and calls for the immediate arrest and punishment of individuals engaged in these actions;

3. *Condemns* the continuing restrictions on freedom of movement within the Republika Srpska, within some parts of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and between the Republika Srpska and the Federation;

4. *Expresses concern* for women and children, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who were victims of rape used as a weapon of war, and calls for the perpetrators of rape to be brought to justice while ensuring that victims and witnesses receive adequate assistance and protection;

5. *Insists* that all parties implement fully the commitments made in the Peace Agreement to protect human rights, and also insists that the parties act to promote and protect democratic institutions of government at all levels in their respective countries, to ensure freedom of expression and of the media, to allow and encourage freedom of association, including with respect to political parties, and to ensure freedom of movement and that the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina comply with the human rights provisions of their national Constitution;

6. *Welcomes* the conclusions of the meeting of the ministerial Steering Board and the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina,[391] held in Paris on 14 November 1996, in order to define the guiding principles of the civilian consolidation plan of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular in the field of human rights;

7. *Calls upon* the participants in the Peace Implementation Meeting, to be held in London on 6 December 1996, to ensure that the promotion of human rights, including the fulfilment of their respective human rights obligations by the parties to the Peace Agreement, as well as the strengthening of national institutions, will be a central element in the new civilian structure implementing the Peace Agreement;

8. *Calls upon* the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to undertake substantially greater efforts to institute democratic norms, especially in regard to the protection of free and independent media, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

9. *Strongly urges* the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to revoke all discriminatory legislation and to apply all other legislation without discrimination and to take urgent action to prevent arbitrary evictions and dismissals and discrimination against any ethnic or national, religious or linguistic group;

10. *Urgently demands* that the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) take immediate action to put an end to the repression of, and to prevent violence against, non-Serb populations in Kosovo, including acts of harassment, beatings, torture, warrantless searches, arbitrary detention and unfair trials, and also to respect the rights of persons belonging to minority groups in the Sandjak and Vojvodina and of persons belonging to the Bulgarian minority;

11. *Calls upon* the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to act immediately to allow all residents in Kosovo to participate freely and fully in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the region, particularly in the areas of education and health care, and to ensure that all the residents of the region are guaranteed equal treatment and protection regardless of ethnic affiliation;

12. *Calls upon* the Government of the Republic of Croatia to fully respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to any national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minority;

13. *Also calls upon* the Government of the Republic of Croatia to undertake greater efforts to adhere to democratic norms, especially in regard to the Zagreb city council and the protection of free and independent media, and to cooperate fully with the United Nations Transitional Administration for

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[387] A/51/651-S/1996/902, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/902.

[388] A/51/663-S/1996/927, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/927.

[389] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1996*, document S/1996/691.

[390] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[391] *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/968.

Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium to assure that the reintegration of Eastern Slavonia occurs peacefully and with respect for the human rights of all residents and returning displaced persons and refugees, including their right to remain, leave or return in safety and dignity;

14. *Calls for* the full and consistent implementation of the Peace Agreement and the Basic Agreement by all the parties to them;

15. *Urges* all the parties to the Peace Agreement to create the necessary political, social and economic conditions for the return of refugees and displaced persons in safety and dignity;

16. *Insists* that all authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina cooperate fully with the Commission on Human Rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina, created under annex 6 of the Peace Agreement, in particular by providing information requested by the Human Rights Ombudsman and by participating in hearings before the Human Rights Chamber, and demands that the Republika Srpska cease its pattern of non-cooperation with the Commission;

17. *Calls upon* the Commission on Human Rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina to intensify its activities concerning alleged or apparent violations of human rights, or alleged or apparent discrimination of any kind;

18. *Welcomes* the commitments of the international community for post-war reconstruction and development assistance, and encourages the expansion of this assistance, while noting that such assistance should be conditioned on full compliance by the parties with agreements that have been made;

19. *Urges* the parties to create the necessary conditions for free and fair municipal elections to be held as soon as possible and as envisaged in the Peace Agreement, under the supervision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

20. *Welcomes* the enactment by the Republic of Croatia on 20 September 1996 of a new general amnesty law, intended in part to promote confidence on the part of the local Serb population, and calls for the proper implementation of that law;

21. *Calls upon* the Government of the Republic of Croatia to allow the expeditious return of all refugees and displaced persons and to use all available means to secure their safety and human rights, and to investigate and arrest those responsible for acts of violence and intimidation aimed at driving people away;

22. *Strongly condemns* the continuing refusal of the authorities of the Republika Srpska, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), certain other elements within the Federation and to some extent the Government of the Republic of Croatia to arrest and surrender indicted war criminals known to be present in their territories, as they have agreed to do under the Peace Agreement;

23. *Urgently calls upon* all States and all parties to the Peace Agreement to meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, as required by Security Council resolution 827 (1993), including with respect to surrendering persons sought by the International Tribunal, and urges all States and the Secretary-General to support the Tribunal to the fullest extent possible, in particular, by helping to ensure that persons indicted by the Tribunal stand trial before it;

24. *Demands* that the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular the authorities of the Republika Srpska, and the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) ensure full and free access to their territories to all institutions and organizations concerned with the implementation of the present resolution, including non-governmental organizations;

25. *Welcomes* the interim reports[198,199] of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), and commends the Special Rapporteur and the Human Rights Field Operation in the former Yugoslavia for their continuing efforts;

26. *Urges* all parties to implement fully the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights;

27. *Calls upon* the authorities of the States and entities within the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to cooperate with her and to provide her on a regular basis with information about the actions they are taking to implement her recommendations;

28. *Reaffirms*, as recommended previously by the Special Rapporteur, that major reconstruction aid must be made conditional on demonstrated respect for human rights, emphasizes in that context the necessity of cooperation with the International Tribunal, and welcomes in this regard the conclusions of the meeting of the ministerial Steering Board and the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina,[200] held in Paris on 14 November 1996;

29. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the European Community Monitoring Mission and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in monitoring and strengthening the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region;

30. *Calls upon* the parties to the Peace Agreement to take immediate steps to determine the identity, the whereabouts and the fate of missing persons, in particular near Srebrenica, Žepa, Prijedor, Sanski Most and Vukovar,

including through close cooperation with the International Commission on Missing Persons in the Former Yugoslavia, other international humanitarian organizations and independent experts, and commends the work undertaken by the expert member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the Commission on Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur, the Working Group on the Process for Tracing Persons Unaccounted For, chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Expert Group on Exhumation and Missing Persons, chaired by the High Representative, and stresses the importance of coordinating work in this area;

31. *Encourages* all Governments to respond favourably to appeals for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the Commission on Human Rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Commission on Missing Persons in the Former Yugoslavia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights and other institutions of reconciliation, democracy and justice in the region;

32. *Decides* to continue its examination of this question at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/117. Situation of human rights in Myanmar

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[392] the Internatiomal Covenants on Human Rights[393] and other applicable human rights instruments,

Aware that, in accordance with the Charter, the Organization promotes and encourages respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government,

Recalling its resolution 50/194 of 22 December 1995;,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/58 of 3 March 1992,[394] in which the Commission, *inter alia*, decided to nominate a special rapporteur to establiish direct contacts with the Government and with the people of Myanmar, including political leaders deprived of their liberty, their families and their lawyers, with a view to examining the situation of human rights in Myanmar and following any progress made towards the transfer of power to a civiliian Government and the drafting of a new constitution, the lifting of restrictions on personal freedoms and the restoration of human rights in Myanmar,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/80 of 23 April 1996,[395] in which the Commission decided to extend for one year the mandate of its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,

Noting with concern that the Government of Myanmar has not yet agreed to visits by a representative of the Secretary-General and by the Special Rapporteur,

Gravely concerned that the Government of Myanmar still has not implemented its commitment to take all necessary steps towards democracy in the light of the results of the elections held in 1990,

Recalling the release without conditions of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on 10 July 1995,

Gravely concerned at the travel and other restrictions placed on Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders and at the recent mass arrests of members and supporters of the National League for Democracy for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression, assembly and association, and alarmed by the attack, on 9 November 1996, on Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of the National League for Democracy,

Recalling the withdrawal and subsequent exclusion from the National Convention of members of the National League for Democracy in late 1995,

Regretting the failure of the Government of Myanmar to open a political dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders, including representatives of ethnic groups,

Gravely concerned at the continued violations of human rights in Myanmar, as reported by the Special Rapporteur, including extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, killings of civilians, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, deaths in custody, absence of due process of law, severe restrictions on freedoms of opinion, expression, assembly and association, violations of freedom of movement, forced relocation, forced labour and portering and the imposition of oppressive measures directed in particular at ethnic and religious minorities,

Recalling the observation made by the Special Rapporteur that the absence of respect for the rights pertaining to democratic governance is at the root of all the major violations of human rights in Myanmar,

Recalling also the conclusion of ceasefire agreements between the Government of Myanmar and several ethnic groups,

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[392] Resolution 217 A (III).

[393] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[394] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2* (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[395] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Noting that the human rights situation in Myanmar has resulted in flows of refugees to neighbouring countries, thus creating problems for the countries concerned,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar for his interim report,[306] and urges the Government of Myanmar to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur;

2. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his report;[307]

3. *Deplores* the continued violations of human rights in Myanmar;

4. *Requests* the Government of Myanmar to permit unrestricted communication with and physical access to Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders by members and supporters of the National League for Democracy and to protect their physical well-being;

5. *Strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to release immediately and unconditionally detained political leaders and all political prisoners, to ensure their physical integrity and to permit them to participate in the process of national reconciliation;

6. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to engage, at the earliest possible date, in a substantive political dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other political leaders, including representatives of ethnic groups, as the best means of promoting national reconciliation and the full and early restoration of democracy;

7. *Welcomes* the discussions between the Government of Myanmar and the Secretary-General, and further encourages the Government of Myanmar to allow a visit by the representative of the Secretary-General, as soon as possible, in order to allow for a broader dialogue in Myanmar;

8. *Again urges* the Government of Myanmar, in conformity with its assurances given at various times, to take all necessary steps towards the restoration of democracy in accordance with the will of the people as expressed in the democratic elections held in 1990 and to ensure that political parties and non-governmental organizations can function freely;

9. *Expresses its concern* that most of the representatives duly elected in 1990 are still excluded from participating in the meetings of the National Convention, created to prepare basic elements for the drafting of a new constitution, and that one of the objectives of the Convention is to maintain the participation of the armed forces in a leading role in the future political life of the State, and notes also with concern that the working procedures of the National Convention do not permit the elected representatives of the people freely to express their views;

10. *Strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to take all appropriate measures to allow all citizens to participate freely in the political process, in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to accelerate the process of transition to democracy, in particular through the transfer of power to democratically elected representatives;

11. *Also strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and assembly, the right to fair trial and the protection of the rights of persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, and to put an end to violations of the right to life and integrity of the human being, to the practices of torture, abuse of women, forced labour and forced relocations and to enforced disappearances and summary executions;

12. *Appeals* to the Government of Myanmar to consider becoming a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[103] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[103] and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment;[308]

13. *Strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to fulfil its obligations as a State party to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87), of the International Labour Organization, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to cooperate more closely with the International Labour Organization;

14. *Stresses* the importance for the Government of Myanmar to give particular attention to conditions in the country's jails and to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to communicate freely and confidentially with prisoners;

15. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar and other parties to the hostilities in Myanmar to respect fully the obligations under international humanitarian law, including article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[309] to halt the use of weapons against the civilian population, to protect all civilians, including children, women and persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities, from violations of humanitarian law and to avail itself of such services as may be offered by impartial humanitarian bodies;

16. *Encourages* the Government of Myanmar to create the necessary conditions to ensure an end to the movements of refugees to neighbouring countries and to create conditions conducive to their voluntary return and their full reintegration, in conditions of safety and dignity;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his discussions with the Government of Myanmar in order to assist in the implementation of the present resolution and its efforts

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[306] See A/51/466.

[307] A/51/660.

[308] Resolution 39/46, annex.

[309] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

for national reconciliation and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session;

18. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/118. Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/121 of 20 December 1993, in which it endorsed the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[430] adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, as well as its subsequent resolutions on this matter,

Reaffirming the view of the World Conference that the promotion and protection of human rights is a matter of priority for the international community,

Considering that the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the basic purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and one of the main priorities of the Organization,

Convinced that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action has to be translated into effective action by States, the competent United Nations organs and organizations and other organizations concerned, including non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing the importance of dialogue and cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations in the field of human rights,

Recalling the request of the Conference to the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to take immediate steps to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations,

Recalling also part II, paragraph 100, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in which the Conference requested the Secretary-General to invite, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all States and all organs and agencies of the United Nations system related to human rights to report to him on the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling further that regional and, as appropriate, national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, may present their views to the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and that special attention should be paid to assessing the progress towards the goal of universal ratification of international human rights treaties and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations,

Recalling that by its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993 the General Assembly decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities, including coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system,

Noting that, at the first regular session of 1994 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, held in April, the executive heads of all United Nations agencies discussed the implications of the results of the Conference for their respective programmes and committed themselves to support the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the coordination of the United Nations organs, bodies and the specialized agencies whose activities deal with human rights, as set out in resolution 48/141,

Recognizing that the interdependence of democracy, development and respect for human rights, as stated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, requires a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of human rights and that adequate inter-agency cooperation and coordination are essential in order to ensure such a fully integrated approach throughout the United Nations system,

Noting that the High Commissioner has established a permanent dialogue with the United Nations programmes and agencies whose activities deal with human rights in order to maintain systematic exchanges of information, experience and expertise,

Welcoming the fact that the call of the World Conference on Human Rights for a United Nations system-wide approach to human rights issues has been reflected in the recommendations of major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Noting the ongoing efforts to ensure a coordinated follow-up to major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling that each year the Economic and Social Council shall carry out, within the framework of its coordination segment, a review of cross-cutting themes common to major international conferences and/or contribute to an overall review of the implementation of the programme of action of a United Nations conference, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1995/1 of the Economic and Social Council,[401]

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[430] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[402] in particular chapter IX, entitled "1998: Human Rights Year",

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of the promotion of universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as expressed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

2. *Reaffirms also* the views of the World Conference on Human Rights on the urgency of eliminating denials and violations of human rights;

3. *Recognizes* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

4. *Calls upon* all States to take further action with a view to the full realization of all human rights in the light of the recommendations of the Conference;

5. *Urges* all States to continue to give widespread publicity to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, including through training programmes, human rights education and public information, in order to promote increased awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system related to human rights to take further action with a view to the full implementation of all the recommendations of the Conference;

7. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to continue to coordinate the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system, as set out in resolution 48/141, including through a permanent dialogue with the United Nations agencies and programmes whose activities deal with human rights;

8. *Invites* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue to discuss the implications of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for the United Nations system, with the participation of the High Commissioner;

9. *Takes note* of the intention of the High Commissioner to invite all States and all organs and agencies of the United Nations system related to human rights to carry out a thorough evaluation of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as part of the 1998 five-year review foreseen in part II, paragraph 100, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

10. *Welcomes* the inter-agency consultations of the High Commissioner with all United Nations programmes and agencies whose activities deal with human rights for the preparation of the 1998 five-year review, and calls upon them to contribute actively to this process;

11. *Encourages* regional and national human rights institutions as well as non-governmental organizations to present, on this occasion, their views on the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

12. *Welcomes and supports* Economic and Social Council decision 1996/283 of 24 July 1996, in which the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights to consider devoting the coordination segment at its substantive session of 1998 to the question of the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as part of the 1998 five-year review foreseen in part II, paragraph 100, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

13. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to report on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in particular concerning the preparation of the 1998 five-year review;

14. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/119. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, establishing the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Reaffirming its commitment to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[403] adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993

Recalling its decision 50/465 of 22 December 1995, concerning the organization of work of the Third Committee and the biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1996-1997, which includes in its programme of work the item entitled "Human rights questions: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights",

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[401] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/50/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 22.

[402] See A/51/36; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36*.

[403] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Recognizing, in accordance with resolution 48/141, the crucial and important role that the High Commissioner's functions play in removing the current obstacles and in meeting the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world, as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[404]

Stressing the importance of enabling the smooth running of the United Nations human rights machinery,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[404] on the effective promotion and protection of all human rights;

2. *Encourages* the High Commissioner to continue his activities in discharging his responsibilities under resolution 48/141;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the constructive manner in which the High Commissioner is carrying out his functions;

4. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/120. Question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/159 of 23 December 1994, in which it approved the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime,[405] and bearing in mind the report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,[406] held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995,

Taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/27 of 24 July 1996, entitled "Implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime", in which the Council decided, *inter alia*, that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should establish an in-sessional open-ended working group at its sixth session, for the purpose, *inter alia*, of considering the possibility of elaborating a convention or conventions against organized transnational crime and identifying elements that could be included therein,

Recalling also the Buenos Aires Declaration on Prevention and Control of Organized Transnational Crime,[407] adopted by the Regional Ministerial Workshop on Follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, held at Buenos Aires from 27 to 30 November 1995,

Deeply disturbed by the increasingly alarming threat posed by organized transnational crime to the rule of law, stability and security of States, which calls for an urgent and appropriate response,

Concerned about the growing number and variety of crimes committed by organized criminal groups,

Convinced of the need for closer coordination and cooperation among States in combating organized transnational crime, and bearing in mind the role that could be played by the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in this respect,

Considering that there is a need to examine the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime,

Taking note of the proposed draft United Nations framework convention against organized crime introduced by Poland,[408]

Bearing in mind the discussion on the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime which took place in the Third Committee during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite all States to submit their views on the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, including, *inter alia*, their comments on the proposed draft United Nations framework convention, not later than two months before the commencement of the sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider, as a matter of priority, the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, taking into account the views of all States on this matter, with a view to finalizing its work on this question as soon as possible;

3. *Further requests* the Commission to report through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the results of its work on this question;

4. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

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[404] A/51/36; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36*.

[405] See A/49/748, annex, sect. I, A.

[406] A/CONF.169/16.

[407] E/CN.15/1996/2/Add.1, annex.

[408] A/C.3/51/7, annex.

VI. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

CONTENTS

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/2	Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	278
51/3	Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia	279
51/12	Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters	280
51/13	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations	282
51/14	Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti	282
51/15	Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti	283
51/152	Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina	285
51/153	Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium	286
51/154	Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force	287
51/211	Pattern of conferences	
	Resolution A	288
	Resolution B	289
	Resolution C	290
	Resolution D	291
	Resolution E	291
51/212	Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations	291
51/213	Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission	291
51/214	Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991	292
51/215	Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994	294
51/216	United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission	295
51/217	United Nations pension system	302

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/218	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations	
	Resolution A	307
	Resolution B	308
	Resolution C	308
	Resolution D	309
51/219	Programme planning	309
51/220	Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1998-1999	317
51/221	Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997	
	Resolution A	318
	Resolution B	319
51/222	Programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997	
	A. Revised budget appropriations for the biennium 1996-1997	320
	B. Revised income estimates for the biennium 1996-1997	323
	C. Financing of appropriations for the year 1997	324

51/2. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and its subsequent resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 1056 (1996) of 29 May 1996, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 November 1996,

Recalling its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission, and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was decision 50/446 C of 17 September 1996,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Mission on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 September 1996, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 49,014,872 United States dollars, representing 20 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission to the period ending 30 September 1996, notes that some 18 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, particularly as regards the reimbursement of troop-contributing countries, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission promptly and in full;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 27,962,500 dollars gross (25,480,500 dollars net), already authorized and assessed under the terms of General Assembly resolution 49/247 of 20 July 1995, for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 February to 30 June 1996;

8. *Decides also* to appropriate the amount of 13,292,500 dollars gross (12,555,000 dollars net) for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1996, inclusive of the amount of 526,835 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, and taking into account the amount of 7,816,100 dollars gross (6,846,350 dollars net) already authorized and assessed for the period from 1 July to 30 September 1996 by the Assembly in its decision 50/446 B of 7 June 1996, and the amount of 2.6 million dollars gross (2.5 million dollars net) already authorized for the period from 1 to 31 October 1996 by the Assembly in its decision 50/446 C;

9. *Decides further*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 7,816,100 dollars gross (6,846,350 dollars net) already apportioned under the terms of decision 50/446 B, to apportion the additional amount of 5,476,400 dollars gross (5,708,650 dollars net) for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1996 among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of

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[1] A/50/655/Add.2.

[2] A/51/440.

23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1996, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995;

10. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, shall take into consideration the decrease in their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 232,250 dollars for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1996;

11. *Decides also* to appropriate the amount of 18,609,500 dollars gross (17,577,000 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 December 1996 to 30 June 1997, inclusive of the amount of 737,565 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be assessed on Member States at a monthly rate not to exceed 2,658,500 dollars gross (2,511,000 dollars net), in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 30 November 1996;

12. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 11 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,032,500 dollars approved for the period from 1 December 1996 to 30 June 1997;

13. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

14. *Decides* to keep the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" under review during its fifty-first session.

38th plenary meeting
17 October 1996

51/3. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

Recalling Security Council resolution 866 (1993) of 22 September 1993, by which the Council established the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia, and subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1071 (1996) of 30 August 1996, and resolution 1020 (1995) of 10 November 1995, by which the Council adjusted the mandate of the Observer Mission,

Recalling also its decision 48/478 of 23 December 1993 on the financing of the Observer Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was decision 50/482 B of 17 September 1996,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Observer Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decision regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Observer Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia as at 30 September 1996, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 10,511,972 United States dollars, representing 13 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Observer Mission to the period ending 31 March 1996, notes that some 30 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Observer Mission in full and on time;

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[3] A/50/650/Add.4.

[4] A/51/423.

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[4]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that all United Nations activities related to the Liberian peace process are administered in a coordinated fashion with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia the amount of 14,016,000 dollars gross (13,186,800 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Observer Mission for the twelve-month period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, inclusive of the amount of 791,800 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, equivalent to a monthly rate of 1,168,000 dollars gross (1,098,900 dollars net), subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission;

8. *Decides also* that the apportionment for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1996 in the amount of 5,840,000 dollars gross (5,494,500 dollars net) will be made at a later date following the review of the performance report of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996;

9. *Decides further* to apportion among Member States the amount of 8,176,000 dollars gross (7,692,300 dollars net) for the period from 1 December 1996 to 30 June 1997 at the rate of 1,168,000 dollars gross (1,098,900 dollars net) per month, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission beyond 30 November 1996, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1996 and 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995;

10. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 69,100 dollars per month approved for the Observer Mission for the period from 1 December 1996 to 30 June 1997;

11. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

12. *Decides* to keep the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia" under review during the fifty-first session.

38th plenary meeting
17 October 1996

51/12. Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters[5] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

Having considered also the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the management structure in the civilian staff component of the United Nations Peace Forces,[7]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 727 (1992) of 8 January 1992 and 740 (1992) of 7 February 1992, in which the Council endorsed the sending of a group of military liaison officers to Yugoslavia to promote maintenance of the ceasefire,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 743 (1992) of 21 February 1992, by which the Council established the United Nations Protection Force, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended and expanded its mandate,

Recalling further Security Council resolution 981 (1995) of 31 March 1995, by which the Council established the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, to be known as UNCRO,

Recalling Security Council resolution 983 (1995) of 31 March 1995, by which the Council decided that the United Nations Protection Force within the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia should be known as the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1025 (1995) of 30 November 1995, in which the Council decided to terminate the mandate of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia on 15 January 1996,

Recalling further Security Council resolution 1031 (1995) of 15 December 1995, in which the Council decided to terminate the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force on the date on which the Secretary-General reported that the transfer of authority from the United Nations Protection Force to the Implementation Force had taken place,

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[5] A/50/696/Add.4 and Corr.1 and Add.5-7.

[6] A/50/903/Add.1 and A/51/497.

[7] A/51/305.

Recalling the letter dated 1 February 1996 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General informing him of the Council's concurrence in principle that the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force become an independent mission,[8]

Recalling also its resolution 46/233 of 19 March 1992 on the financing of the United Nations Protection Force and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was decision 50/410 C of 17 September 1996,

Reaffirming that the costs of the combined Forces are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the combined Forces, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the combined Forces by certain Governments,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the combined Forces with the necessary financial resources to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the combined Forces as at 23 October 1996, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 731.8 million United States dollars, representing 16 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the United Nations Protection Force to the period ending 31 March 1996, notes that some 32 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the combined Forces in full and on time;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

6. *Endorses* also the recommendations made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its report on the review of the management structure in the civilian staff component of the United Nations Peace Forces,[7] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that those recommendations are fully taken into account in the future planning of United Nations peacekeeping missions;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue no later than 8 December 1996 the performance report for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his next report on the financing of the combined Forces updated information on the status of liquidation of the United Nations Protection Force and the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, including costs, staffing levels, a description of difficulties that have been encountered, the Secretary-General's assessment of the progress of liquidation and projections regarding its completion;

9. *Expresses its concern* about the payment by the combined Forces of charges for items that should have been provided without cost under the status-of-forces agreements;

10. *Urges* the Secretary-General to convey the concerns of the General Assembly to the Governments concerned, as well as the request by the Assembly that the Governments reimburse the combined Forces for those expenditures, and requests the Secretary-General to withhold settlement of claims submitted by the Governments concerned until the matter of the expenditures is resolved and to include information on efforts to obtain reimbursement in the next report on the financing of the combined Forces;

11. *Reminds* all Member States that are host to a United Nations peacekeeping mission of the importance of concluding a status-of-forces agreement with the United Nations when a mission has been authorized and of their obligation to comply fully with the terms of such agreements, when concluded;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the combined Forces are administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

13. *Decides*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 115,373,000 dollars gross (113,866,300 dollars net), already appropriated by the General Assembly in its resolution

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[8] See S/1996/76.

50/235 of 7 June 1996, for the period from 1 to 31 December 1995 among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1995 as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995;

14. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,506,700 dollars approved for the period from 1 to 31 December 1995;

15. *Decides further* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the combined Forces, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the amount of 115,373,000 dollars gross (113,866,300 dollars net) from the unencumbered balance of 227,406,878 dollars gross (227,911,279 dollars net) in respect of the period ending 31 December 1995;

16. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their obligations to the combined Forces, their share in the amount of 115,373,000 dollars gross (113,866,300 dollars net) from the unencumbered balance of 227,406,878 dollars gross (227,911,279 dollars net) for the period ending 31 December 1995 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

17. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the liquidation of the combined Forces and the provision of common support for the period from 1 November to 31 December 1996 in the amount of 12,462,300 dollars gross (11,574,400 dollars net);

18. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the combined Forces in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

19. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-first session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters".

50th plenary meeting
4 November 1996

51/13. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters - Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations"[9] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[10]

1. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[10]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop specific measures, including criteria and guidelines for implementing the principles outlined in his report and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee.

50th plenary meeting
4 November 1996

51/14. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti[11] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[12]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1048 (1996) of 29 February 1996, in which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission for a final period of four months, to 30 June 1996, as well as all previous Security Council resolutions on the Mission,

Recalling also its decision 48/477 of 23 December 1993 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 50/90 B of 7 June 1996,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling further its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

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[9] A/51/389.

[10] A/51/491.

[11] A/50/363/Add.3 and Add.4.

[12] A/51/444.

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission by certain Governments,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Haiti as at 29 October 1996, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 19.9 million United States dollars, representing 6 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission to the period ending 30 June 1996, notes that some 23 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[12]

6. *Shares the concern* expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 9 of its report,[12] and requests the Secretary-General to submit detailed explanations to the General Assembly on the circumstances that led to the overexpenditures of approximately 6.7 million dollars with respect to the original estimates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

8. *Decides* to reduce the appropriation and apportionment provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/90 B in the amount of 15,897,900 dollars gross (15,440,300 dollars net), inclusive of the amount of 377,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, for the liquidation of the Mission for the period beginning 1 July 1996, to the amount of 1,197,100 dollars gross (1,185,800 dollars net), inclusive of the amount of 377,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations;

9. *Decides also* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share in the amount of 1,197,100 dollars gross (1,185,800 dollars net) from the unencumbered balance of 17,390,100 dollars gross (16,715,100 dollars net) for the period from 1 August 1995 to 29 February 1996;

10. *Decides further* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their share in the amount of 1,197,100 dollars gross (1,185,800 dollars net) from the unencumbered balance of 17,390,100 dollars gross (16,715,100 dollars net) for the period from 1 August 1995 to 29 February 1996 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

11. *Decides* that the remaining unencumbered balance of 16,193,000 dollars gross (15,529,300 dollars net) for the period from 1 August 1995 to 29 February 1996 shall be credited to Member States;

12. *Decides also* to keep under review during its fifty-first session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti".

50th plenary meeting
4 November 1996

51/15. Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti[13] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[14]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1063 (1996) of 28 June 1996, by which the Council established the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti until 30 November 1996,

Recognizing that the costs of the Support Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Support Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

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[13] A/51/191/Add.1.

[14] A/51/444.

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Support Mission by certain Governments,

Noting also that the assessed contributions to the special account to be established for the Support Mission will cover only direct and indirect costs associated with the six hundred contingent personnel and three hundred civilian police authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1063 (1996),

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Support Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

2. *Urges* all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti in full and on time;

3. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[14]

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Support Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the Support Mission in accordance with paragraph 13 of his report;[13]

6. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 28,704,200 United States dollars gross (27,506,000 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Support Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1996, inclusive of the amount of 13,447,000 dollars gross and net remaining from the appropriation provided under General Assembly resolution 50/90 B of 7 June 1996 for the liquidation of the United Nations Mission in Haiti, with which the Advisory Committee has concurred, for the period from 1 July to 15 September 1996 and the amount of 5,762,800 dollars gross (5,420,700 dollars net) authorized by the Advisory Committee under the terms of section IV of Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 for the period from 16 September to 15 October 1996;

7. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 23,957,000 dollars gross (22,958,500 dollars net) for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1996 among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1996, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995;

8. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 998,500 dollars approved for the Support Mission for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1996;

9. *Decides*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion among Member States the amount of 4,747,200 dollars gross (4,547,500 dollars net) for the period from 1 to 31 December 1996 in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Support Mission beyond 30 November 1996;

10. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 199,700 dollars approved for the Support Mission for the period from 1 to 31 December 1996;

11. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Support Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

12. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-first session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti".

50th plenary meeting
4 November 1996

51/152. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina[15] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[16]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1035 (1995) of 21 December 1995, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina for a period of one year,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1066 (1996) of 15 July 1996, in which the Council authorized the United Nations military observers to continue to monitor the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula,

Recalling further its decision 50/481 of 11 April 1996 and its resolution 50/241 of 7 June 1996 on the financing of the Mission,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decision regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina as at 30 November 1996, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 13.7 million United States dollars, representing 12 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission to the period ending 20 December 1996, notes that some 27 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[16]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 75,619,800 dollars gross (72,225,600 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, inclusive of the amount of 1,918,300 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, in addition to the amount of 75,619,800 dollars gross (72,225,600 dollars net) already appropriated for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1996 under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/241;

8. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 75,619,800 dollars gross (72,225,600 dollars net) already apportioned in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/241, to apportion the additional amount of 75,619,800 dollars gross (72,225,600 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 among Member States at a monthly rate of 12,603,300 dollars gross (12,037,600 dollars net) in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 20 December 1996;

9. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated additional staff assessment income of 3,394,200 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

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[15] A/51/519 and Corr.1.

[16] A/51/681.

10. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

11. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-first session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/153. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium[17] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[18]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1037 (1996) of 15 January 1996, by which the Council established the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium for an initial period of twelve months, and 1079 (1996) of 15 November 1996, in which the Council extended the mandate of the Transitional Administration to 15 July 1997,

Recalling also its decision 50/481 of 11 April 1996 and its resolution 50/242 of 7 June 1996 on the financing of the Transitional Administration,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Transitional Administration are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decision regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Transitional Administration, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that a voluntary contribution has been made to the Transitional Administration by a Government,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Transitional Administration with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium as at 30 November 1996, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 53.6 million United States dollars, representing 23 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Transitional Administration to the period ending 31 December 1996, notes that some 27 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Transitional Administration in full and on time;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[18]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Transitional Administration is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 140,484,350 dollars gross (136,087,550 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Transitional Administration for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, inclusive of the amount of 3,440,050 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, in addition to the amount of 140,484,350 dollars gross (136,087,550 dollars net) already appropriated for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1996 under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/242;

8. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 140,484,350 dollars gross (136,087,550 dollars net) already apportioned in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/242, to apportion an additional amount of 140,484,350 dollars gross (136,087,550 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the

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[17] A/51/520.

[18] A/51/681.

Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1997 as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995;

9. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated additional staff assessment income of 4,396,800 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

10. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Transitional Administration in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

11. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-first session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium".

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/154. Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force[19] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[20]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 983 (1995) of 31 March 1995, by which the Council decided that the United Nations Protection Force within the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia should be known as the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force, and 1082 (1996) of 27 November 1996, in which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 May 1997,

Recalling also its decision 50/481 of 11 April 1996 and its resolution 50/243 of 7 June 1996 on the financing of the Force,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Force are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decision regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Force, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force by certain Governments,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force as at 30 November 1996, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 10.6 million United States dollars, representing 23 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Force to the period ending 30 November 1996, notes that some 28 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full and on time;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[20]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 4,237,100 dollars gross (4,132,500 dollars net) already authorized and apportioned in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/243 for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 31 May to 30 June 1996;

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[19] A/51/508 and Corr.1.

[20] A/51/681.

8. *Decides also* to appropriate the amount of 25,373,400 dollars gross (24,615,600 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, inclusive of the amount of 632,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, in addition to the amount of 26,296,200 dollars gross (25,538,400 dollars net), already appropriated for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1996 under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/243;

9. *Decides further*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 26,296,200 dollars gross (25,538,400 dollars net) already apportioned in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/243, to apportion an additional amount of 25,373,400 dollars gross (24,615,600 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 among Member States at a monthly rate of 4,228,900 dollars gross (4,102,600 dollars net) in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 May 1997;

10. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated additional staff assessment income of 757,800 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

11. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

12. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-first session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force".

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/211. Pattern of conferences

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences,[21]

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, 47/202 A to D of 22 December 1992, 48/222 A and B of 23 December 1993, 49/221 A to D of 23 December 1994 and 50/206 A to F of 23 December 1995,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Committee on Conferences, and takes note of its report;

2. *Approves* the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1997 as submitted[22] and amended[23] by the Committee on Conferences, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make adjustments in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1997 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all the conference services required as a result of decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, taking into account, as necessary, the procedures established in Assembly resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the list of official holidays of the United Nations Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha;

6. *Decides* that no United Nations meetings shall be held on Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha, which occur in 1997 on 10 February and 17 April, respectively, and requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to ensure strict implementation of this decision when preparing all future draft calendars of conferences and meetings of the United Nations;

7. *Decides also* that requests for waivers to the headquarters rule contained in General Assembly resolution 40/243 shall be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences prior to consideration by the Assembly;

8. *Invites* all its subsidiary bodies that are authorized to meet away from their established headquarters to review, in the interest of improved efficiency and cost-effectiveness, the

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[21] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 32* and corrigendum and addendum (A/51/32 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

[22] Ibid., *Supplement No. 32* and corrigendum (A/51/32 and Corr.1), annex.

[23] Ibid., *Supplement No. 32*, addendum (A/51/32/Add.1).

exception to the headquarters rule in the light of the current situation of their work and to make recommendations thereon, through the Committee on Conferences, to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

9. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to request all its subsidiary bodies to carry out the review referred to in paragraph 8 above;

10. *Requests* the bodies that have not fully utilized their meeting entitlements, including the duration of their sessions, to review their entitlements and to report the results of their review to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

11. *Expresses concern* that the overall and average factors for the utilization of conference services have fallen further and were below the established benchmark figure of 80 per cent in 1995;

12. *Reiterates its request* to the Committee on Conferences, in consultation with the organs concerned, to examine the cases where the utilization factor is lower than the established benchmark figure for at least three sessions, with a view to reporting on problems and factors that have given rise to such a situation, and to make appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources;

13. *Expresses concern* about the underutilization of conference facilities at duty stations outside Headquarters, and emphasizes the need to make the most effective use possible of such facilities;

14. *Endorses* the initiatives taken by the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences with a view to assisting bodies to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources and, to that effect, to assess realistically their need for such resources;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure closer cooperation between Headquarters, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office at Nairobi in order to improve the coordination of conference services;

16. *Requests* the Secretariat to engage on a regular basis in an active dialogue with Member States as a permanent feature at Headquarters, as well as at the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in order to improve the coordination of conference services;

17. *Expresses concern* that 35 per cent of requests were denied for interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, in view of the importance of these meetings for the smooth functioning of sessional bodies, while recognizing that meetings of Charter and mandated bodies must be serviced as a priority;

18. *Urges* intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programme of work and to notify Conference Services well in advance of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of States;

19. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide, within the resources requested for conference services for the biennium 1998-1999, interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States upon request by those groupings, taking into account the priority due to meetings included in the calendar of conferences and meetings, and to submit a report on the implementation of this decision to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session through the Committee on Conferences;

20. *Reaffirms* that, in the use of conference rooms, priority should be given to meetings of Member States;

21. *Decides* that bodies which accept invitations to convene conferences and meetings in host countries should be kept informed, as appropriate, of the progress made in negotiating the host country agreement in the course of preparations for such a conference or meeting, with a view to encouraging the timely conclusion of such an agreement before the conference or meeting takes place.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation, including resolutions 47/202 B of 22 December 1992, 48/222 B of 23 December 1993, 49/221 B of 23 December 1994 and 50/206 B and C of 23 December 1995,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[24]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to invite Member States to review their document requirements in order to identify and, where possible, reduce the number and types of documents requested;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to review the internal requirements of the Secretariat in order to avoid a surplus of documents provided in the Secretariat;

4. *Notes* that only two intergovernmental bodies have taken positive action in response to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of resolution 50/206 C;

5. *Reiterates its recommendations* on the control and limitation of documentation made to intergovernmental bodies in its resolution 50/206 C, and requests these bodies to report to it, through the Committee on Conferences, on measures taken to implement that resolution;

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[24] A/51/268.

6. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to keep it informed, through the Committee on Conferences, of its experience with the use of unedited transcripts;

7. *Takes note* of the decision of the Committee on Conferences contained in paragraph 89 of its report,[25] and requests the Committee to report on the implementation of that decision to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

8. *Stresses once again* the need for strict compliance with the existing limits of twenty-four pages for documents originating in the Secretariat and thirty-two pages for reports of subsidiary bodies;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit every two years, through the Committee on Conferences, updated information on the number and length of documents;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, to the extent possible, to inform bodies, at the time they request reports, whether the documents can be produced within established page limits;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts to improve the quality in the substance and presentation of documentation, applying new publishing techniques to enhance readability and reduce consumption of paper;

12. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents, simultaneously in each of the six official languages of the United Nations;

13. *Reaffirms its decision* that, should a report be issued late, the reasons for the delay should be indicated when the report is introduced;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the Joint Inspection Unit to conduct a comprehensive survey of the role publications play in implementing mandates of intergovernmental bodies and the extent to which recurrent publications could be made more cost-effective in this regard, and to submit a report on this matter no later than the end of the fifty-first session.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/206 D of 23 December 1995,

Stressing the need to provide Member States and United Nations bodies with more comprehensive and accurate information on the costs of meetings and documentation,

Noting that the introduction of new technologies enhances the quality, cost-effectiveness and efficiency of conference services,

Stressing the importance of equal access to, and benefit from, the optical disk system and other new technologies in all six official languages by all Member States and the need to overcome the difficulties faced by some Member States, in particular developing countries, in acquiring the technology to access the optical disk system, as well as other available technologies,

Welcoming the actions taken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics of the Economic and Social Council to expand and improve connectivity between United Nations databases and those of Member States, including through their permanent missions, and the training programmes initiated to that end,

Appreciating the relevance of these actions as part of the effort to increase efficiency and to decrease costs,

1. *Strongly urges* the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, having recourse to voluntary and internal expertise within the United Nations system, to develop the cost-accounting system for conference services no later than the next substantive session of the Committee on Conferences;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report, through the Committee on Conferences, to each subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the cost of conference services it utilized in the year concluded in order to enable those organs to plan more effectively;

3. *Decides* that, in the absence of a General Assembly decision to the contrary, the use of such technologies as the optical disk system and the Internet shall not constitute an alternative to traditional documents;

4. *Strongly urges* the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to provide proposals to the Fifth Committee at the first part of the resumed fifty-first session, in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 50/206 D, on facilitating access by developing countries to the optical disk system in all six official languages, taking into account the possible savings from reduced reproduction and distribution costs;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the texts of all new public documents, in all six official languages, and information materials of the United Nations are made available through the United Nations Web site daily and are accessible to Member States without delay;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents on the United Nations Web site on a priority basis, so that these archives are also available to Member States through that medium.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

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[25] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 32* and corrigendum (A/51/32 and Corr.1).

D

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/221 C of 23 December 1994 and 50/206 E of 23 December 1995,

1. *Notes* the efforts made by the translation services to improve the quality of translation of documents in all six official languages of the United Nations, and encourages those services to continue to spare no effort to that end and to continue to report to the Committee on Conferences on additional efforts made in this regard;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pay due attention to the rules of management in translation-related matters.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

E

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 49/221 D of 23 December 1994 and 50/206 F of 23 December 1995,

Expresses its appreciation once again to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for the proper and timely implementation of resolutions 49/221 D and 50/206 F.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

51/212. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 50/207 B of 11 April 1996 concerning the application of Article 19 of the Charter,

1. *Notes* that the Committee on Contributions will report to the General Assembly on the procedural aspects of the consideration of requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations before the end of its fifty-first session;

2. *Endorses* the conclusion of the Committee on Contributions that the failure of the Comoros to pay the minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 of the Charter was attributable to conditions beyond its control;[26]

3. *Decides* that, as a result, the Comoros should be permitted to vote through the fifty-first session of the General Assembly and that any extension that may be requested shall be subject to review by the Committee on Contributions.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

51/213. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission,[27] the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[28] and the related comments and observations in the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services[29] and the Board of Auditors,[30]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolutions 626 (1988) of 20 December 1988, by which the Council established the United Nations Angola Verification Mission, 696 (1991) of 30 May 1991, by which the Council decided to entrust a new mandate to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission II), 976 (1995) of 8 February 1995, by which the Council authorized the establishment of a peacekeeping operation (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III) and its subsequent resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 1087 (1996) of 11 December 1996, in which the Council extended the mandate of the Verification Mission until 28 February 1997,

Recalling its resolution 43/231 of 16 February 1989 on the financing of the Verification Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 50/209 B of 7 June 1996,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Verification Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Verification Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Verification Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Verification

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[26] See A/50/11/Add.2, para. 12; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 11A*.

[27] A/51/494 and Add.1 and 2.

[28] A/51/700 and Corr.1.

[29] See A/51/432, annex.

[30] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/51/5), vol. II.

Mission on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission as at 10 December 1996, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 127,520,046 United States dollars, representing 23 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Verification Mission to the period ending 11 December 1996, notes that some 19 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions to the Verification Mission in full and on time;

5. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[28]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Verification Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to address relevant findings and to implement the relevant recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors in respect of the Verification Mission;

8. *Decides* to appropriate the amount of 137,978,400 dollars gross (134,980,800 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Verification Mission for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, inclusive of the amount of 4,048,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, in addition to the amount of 170,118,500 dollars gross (166,984,100 dollars net) already appropriated for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1996 under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/209 B;

9. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 137,978,400 dollars gross (134,980,800 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 among Member States at a monthly rate of 22,996,400 dollars gross (22,496,800 dollars net) beginning 1 January 1997, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Verification Mission beyond 28 February 1997;

10. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the additional estimated staff assessment income of 2,997,600 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

11. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Verification Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the unencumbered balance of 20,790,900 dollars gross (20,639,700 dollars net) for the period from 9 February to 31 December 1995;

12. *Decides also* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Verification Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 20,790,900 dollars gross (20,639,700 dollars net) for the period from 9 February to 31 December 1995 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

13. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Verification Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

14. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-first session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission".

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

51/214. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991[31] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[32]

Recalling its resolution 50/212 C of 7 June 1996, in which it requested the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services to undertake, without prejudice to its programme of work, an inspection of the International

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[31] A/C.5/51/30.

[32] A/51/7/Add.5.

Tribunal, with a view to identifying problems and recommending measures to enhance the efficient utilization of resources, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session,

Noting that the Secretary-General intends to submit revised budget proposals for 1997 following the finalization at the end of 1996 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,

1. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[32] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his revised budget proposals detailed explanations regarding the rental conditions of office and parking space referred to in paragraph 89 of his report[31] and the efforts to find subtenants for the available office and parking space, taking into account paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 48/251 of 14 April 1994;

3. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 a total amount of 23,655,600 United States dollars gross (21,146,900 dollars net) for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1997;

4. *Decides also* that the appropriation for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1997 under the Special Account referred to in paragraph 3 above shall be financed according to the methodology established by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/242 B of 20 July 1995, taking into account the anticipated availability of an unencumbered balance of 5 million dollars for 1996, as detailed in the annex to the present resolution;

5. *Decides further* that Member States shall waive their respective shares in the remaining credits arising from previous budgets of the United Nations Protection Force in the amount of 9,327,800 dollars gross (8,073,450 dollars net), to be transferred to the Special Account for the International Tribunal from the Special Account for the United Nations Protection Force established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/233 of 19 March 1992;

6. *Decides* to apportion the amount of 9,327,800 dollars gross (8,073,450 dollars net) among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments for the year 1997;

7. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 6 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,254,350 dollars approved for the International Tribunal for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1997;

8. *Decides further* to revert to the consideration of the financing of the International Tribunal for the year 1997 at the first part of its resumed fifty-first session on the basis of the revised budget proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, which was requested with a view to identifying problems and recommending measures to enhance the efficient utilization of resources, to be submitted to the General Assembly.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

ANNEX

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

		Gross	*Net*
		(United States dollars)	
Initial appropriations for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1997		23 655 600	21 146 900
Less:	Estimated 1996 unencumbered balance	(5 000 000)	(5 000 000)
Balance:	1 January to 30 June 1997 (appropriation to be assessed for January to June)	18 655 600	16 146 900
	Of which: United Nations Protection Force[a]	9 327 800	8 073 450
	Assessed amounts[b]	9 327 800	8 073 450

[a] Refers to the credits arising from previous budgets of the United Nations Protection Force.

[b] Refers to the contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments for the year 1997.

51/215. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994[33] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[34]

Recalling its resolution 50/213 C of 7 June 1996, in which it requested the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services to undertake, without prejudice to its programme of work, an inspection of the International Tribunal for Rwanda, with a view to identifying problems and recommending measures to enhance the efficient utilization of resources, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session,

Noting that the Secretary-General intends to submit revised 1997 budget proposals following finalization at the end of 1996 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,

1. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[34] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

2. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 a total amount of 23,114,950 United States dollars gross (20,871,100 dollars net) for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1997;

3. *Decides also* that the appropriation for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1997 under the Special Account referred to in paragraph 2 above shall be financed according to the methodology established by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/251 of 20 July 1995, after taking into account the anticipated availability of an unencumbered balance of 12 million dollars for 1996, as detailed in the annex to the present resolution;

4. *Decides further* that Member States shall waive their respective shares in the remaining credits arising from previous budgets of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda in the total amount of 5,557,475 dollars gross (4,435,550 dollars net), to be transferred to the Special Account for the International Tribunal for Rwanda from the Special Account for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda;

5. *Decides* to apportion the amount of 5,557,475 dollars gross (4,435,550 dollars net) among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments for the year 1997;

6. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 5 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,121,925 dollars approved for the International Tribunal for Rwanda for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1997;

7. *Decides further* to revert to the consideration of the financing of the International Tribunal for Rwanda for the year 1997 at the first part of its resumed fifty-first session on the basis of the revised budgetary estimates to be proposed by the Secretary-General and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to be submitted to the General Assembly, which was requested with a view to identifying problems and recommending measures to enhance the efficient utilization of resources.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

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[33] A/C.5/51/29 and Corr.1.

[34] A/51/7/Add.5; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 7.*

ANNEX

Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

		Gross	*Net*
		(United States dollars)	
Initial appropriations for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1997		23 114 950	20 871 100
Less:	Estimated 1996 unencumbered balance	(12 000 000)	(12 000 000)
Balance:	1 January to 30 June 1997 (appropriation to be assessed for January to June)	11 114 950	8 871 100
	Of which: United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda[a]	5 557 475	4 435 550
	Assessed amounts[b]	5 557 475	4 435 550

[a] Refers to the credits arising from previous budgets of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda.

[b] Refers to the contributions assessed on Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments for the year 1997.

51/216. United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the twenty-second annual report of the International Civil Service Commission[35] and other related reports,[36]

Reaffirming its commitment to a single, unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

Reaffirming the central role of the Commission in the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

Taking note of the statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination[37] and of the introductory statement of the Secretary-General regarding the report of the Commission,[38]

I

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHER CATEGORIES

A. *Examination of the Noblemaire principle and its application*

Recalling its resolutions related to the study of all aspects of the application of the Noblemaire principle,[39]

Recalling also section I.B of its resolution 44/198 of 21 December 1989, by which it reaffirmed that the Noblemaire principle should continue to serve as the basis of comparison between United Nations emoluments and those of the highest-paying national civil service,

Recalling further section I.A of its resolution 50/208 of 23 December 1995, by which it decided to defer consideration of the Noblemaire principle and its application and requested the International Civil Service Commission to review the recommendations and conclusions contained in chapter III.A of its twenty-first annual report,[40] taking into account the views expressed by Member States at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, in particular regarding the appropriateness of the reduction of dominance and the treatment of bonuses in determining net remuneration comparisons,

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[35] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/51/30).

[36] Ibid. *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 30* and addendum (A/50/30 and Add.1); A/C.5/51/24 and A/C.5/51/25 and Corr.1.

[37] A/C.5/51/25 and Corr.1.

[38] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Fifth Committee*, 32nd meeting (A/C.5/51/SR.32), and corrigendum.

[39] Resolution 46/191 A, sects. IV and VI; resolution 47/216, sect. II.C; resolution 48/224, sect. II.A and B; and resolution 49/223, sect. III.A.

[40] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/50/30).

1. *Reconfirms* the continued application of the Noblemaire principle;

2. *Reaffirms* the need to continue to ensure the competitiveness of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system;

B. *Comparator*

1. *Takes note* of the further steps taken by the International Civil Service Commission to complete its study to identify the highest paid national civil service, as outlined in paragraph 47 of the addendum to its twenty-first annual report;[41]

2. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-second session the report of the Commission as contained in paragraphs 33 to 47 of the addendum to its twenty-first annual report;

C. *Margin considerations and base/floor salary scale*

Recalling that, in the past, the General Assembly had requested the International Civil Service Commission to make recommendations on the net remuneration margin methodology and that the Assembly has taken decisions in this regard,

Recalling also that, by section I.C, paragraph 3, of its resolution 44/198, it had endorsed the methodological approach for the calculation of the net remuneration margin as outlined in paragraph 173 (*d*) of volume II of the fifteenth annual report of the Commission,[42]

Recalling further section VIII of its resolution 46/191 A of 20 December 1991, by which the Commission was invited to pursue, as a matter of priority, its review of merit systems and performance appraisal in the United Nations common system as a vehicle for enhancing productivity and cost-effectiveness, as well as section VII of its resolution 49/223 of 23 December 1994,

1. *Decides* that the net remuneration margin methodology without the modifications in paragraph 119 (*b*) (ii) and (iii) of the twenty-first annual report of the International Civil Service Commission[40] should continue to apply;

2. *Reaffirms* that the range of 110 to 120, with a desirable mid-point of 115, for the margin between net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service should continue to apply, on the understanding that the margin would be maintained at a level around the desirable mid-point of 115 over a period of time;

3. *Notes* that the margin between net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and that of officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service for 1996, on the basis of its decision in paragraph 1 above, is 114.6;

4. *Approves*, with effect from 1 January 1997, the revised scale of gross and net salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories contained in annex I to the present resolution and the consequential amendment to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations, as reflected in annex II to the present resolution;

5. *Reiterates its request* contained in section I.A., paragraph 4, of its resolution 50/208 that organizations should collect data to substantiate the recruitment and retention problems they face in respect of certain specialized occupations, and that the Commission should make recommendations for the implementation of special occupational rates as appropriate;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make operational proposals to the General Assembly by 1 October 1997, for its consideration at its fifty-second session, on the possibility of introducing a system of performance awards or bonuses, in the context of the performance appraisal system, to a limited number of staff in recognition of their outstanding performance and specific achievements in a given year;

7. *Invites* the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations common system to develop and submit proposals to their relevant intergovernmental bodies, as a matter of priority, on the possibility of introducing performance awards or bonuses to a limited number of staff in recognition of their outstanding performance and specific achievements in a given year, and to coordinate, to the extent possible, these proposals with those developed by the Secretary-General;

8. *Requests* the Commission to provide general comments on the concept of performance awards and bonuses to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

D. *Supplementary payments*

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session regarding the decisions of the International Civil Service Commission with respect to the practice of some Member States of making supplementary payments with respect to their nationals, and recalling also the affirmation by the Commission that such arrangements are unnecessary, inappropriate and undesirable, and are inconsistent with the staff regulations of the organizations,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the executive heads of the organizations of the common system to take such measures and make such

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[41] Ibid., addendum (A/50/30/Add.1).

[42] Ibid., *Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/44/30), vol. II.

proposals as they consider appropriate in order to end such practices;

2. *Requests* all organizations to issue or reissue, as appropriate, instructions to staff regarding the unacceptability of receiving supplementary payments;

3. *Invites* Member States to discontinue such practices;

E. *Post adjustment matters*

Recalling its request in section II.G of its resolution 48/224 of 23 December 1993, regarding place-to-place surveys conducted at headquarters duty stations,

Recalling also its request in section I.B, paragraph 3, of its resolution 50/208, regarding the operation of the post adjustment system and the examination of the system by the working group on post adjustment of the International Civil Service Commission, including the identification of elements of pay (expenditures) that should not be indexed for local price changes, the evaluation of out-of-area expenditures as part of pay and the study of the appropriateness of applying the out-of-area index to some of those elements,

Recalling further its request in section I.B, paragraph 2, of its resolution 50/208, regarding the establishment in 1996, in respect of staff members whose duty station is Geneva, of a single post adjustment index which is fully representative of the cost of living of all staff working in the duty station and which ensures equality of treatment with staff in other headquarters duty stations,

1. *Endorses* the decision of the International Civil Service Commission regarding the out-of-area expenditure weights as contained in paragraph 188 of its report,[35] and requests the Commission to continue to monitor this issue and to report to the General Assembly as appropriate;

2. *Notes* the introduction, with effect from 1 March 1997, of minimum out-of-area expenditure weights in the calculation of post adjustment indices, as contained in paragraph 188 of the report of the Commission;

3. *Reiterates its request* to the Commission urgently to complete its study regarding the methodology for establishing a single post adjustment index for Geneva, and to complete the study needed to implement the single post adjustment at the earliest date, and no later than 1 January 1998;

4. *Requests* the Commission to review further all the issues relating to the post adjustment system, including those listed in section I.B, paragraph 3, of resolution 50/208, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

F. *Dependency allowances*

Recalling section II.F, paragraph 2, of its resolution 47/216 of 23 December 1992, in which it noted that the International Civil Service Commission would review the level of dependency allowances every two years,

Noting the Commission's review of dependency allowances, reflecting relevant changes in tax abatement and social legislation at the seven headquarters duty stations since 1993,

1. *Approves*, with effect from 1 January 1997, an increase of 7.98 per cent in the children's allowance (including that for disabled children) and in the secondary dependant's allowance;

2. *Takes note* of the updated list of hard currency duty stations for which the allowances are specified in local currency, as contained in annex X to the report of the International Civil Service Commission;[35]

II

GENERAL SERVICE AND OTHER LOCALLY RECRUITED CATEGORIES

Recalling that, in section XIV of its resolution 45/241 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly had requested the International Civil Service Commission to consider, *inter alia*, the relativities between the terms and conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories and those in other categories,

Recalling also section III, paragraph 1, of its resolution 47/216, in which it endorsed the reaffirmation by the Commission of the Flemming principle as the basis for determining the conditions of service of the General Service and related categories,

1. *Notes* the preparations undertaken for the 1997 review of the methodologies for the surveys of the best prevailing local conditions of employment at headquarters and non-headquarters duty stations;

2. *Urges* the representatives of staff to participate fully in the working groups of the International Civil Service Commission in its review of the salary survey methodologies;

3. *Requests* the Commission, as part of its review of the methodology for salary setting for staff in the General Service and other locally recruited categories:

(*a*) To resolve, to the extent possible, inconsistencies between that methodology and the one which is applied pursuant to the Noblemaire principle, *inter alia*, by examining the question of overlap in remuneration between the two categories;

(*b*) To study the feasibility of increasing the weight of public-sector employers in the salary surveys at headquarters duty stations;

(*c*) To submit a report based on the review of the methodology to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

4. *Also requests* the Commission to defer a final decision on the General Service salary setting methodology pending the review of the application of the Flemming principle by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and to adjust its programme of headquarters salary surveys as appropriate;

5. *Decides* that the requests contained in section I.C above, paragraphs 6, 7 and 8, shall also apply in respect of staff in the General Service and other locally recruited categories;

III

COMMON STAFF ASSESSMENT SCALE

Recalling that, in section I, paragraph 4, of its resolution 48/225 of 23 December 1993, it approved the procedure in paragraph 44 of the nineteenth annual report of the International Civil Service Commission[43] for determining the common staff assessment scale, with two separate sets of rates (single and dependent), and recalling also that, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/225, it requested the Commission, in close cooperation with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, as part of the comprehensive review of the methodology for determining the scale of pensionable remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories scheduled for 1996, to develop a common staff assessment scale for the determination of the pensionable remuneration of all categories of staff using the above-mentioned procedure and reflecting the latest available tax rates,

Noting with satisfaction that the close cooperation between the Commission and the Board has resulted in agreement between the two bodies, *inter alia*, on the methodology and its application for the common staff assessment scale for all categories of staff, as reflected in their respective reports,

Noting that the Commission, in accordance with article 10 (*d*) of its statute, has developed the common staff assessment scale for pensionable remuneration purposes contained in annex IV to the report of the Commission,[35] taking into account the views of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board set out in paragraphs 152 to 159 of its report,[44] and the considerations set out in paragraphs 83 to 89 of the report of the Commission,[35]

1. *Approves*, with effect from 1 January 1997, the revised staff assessment scale recommended by the International Civil Service Commission in annex IV to its report for determining the pensionable remuneration of all categories of staff, subject to the procedure set out in paragraph 107 of its report in the case of General Service and related categories, as well as for use in conjunction with gross salaries of the General Service and related categories of staff, and the consequential amendments to the Staff Regulations as shown in annex II to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Commission to report on the impact of the differences in national and local tax rates at the seven headquarters duty stations on the gross pension benefits of locally recruited staff in the General Service and related categories at those duty stations in comparison with the compensation for such taxes provided by the common staff assessment rates;

IV

EDUCATION GRANT

Recalling section IV, paragraph 1, of its resolution 47/216, by which it endorsed the revised methodology for the determination of the education grant,

1. *Approves* increases in the maximum reimbursement levels in seven currency areas, as well as other adjustments to the management of the reimbursement of expenses under the education grant, as recommended by the International Civil Service Commission in paragraphs 230 (*a*) to (*f*) of its report;[35]

2. *Notes* the intention of the Commission to undertake in 1997 an in-depth review of the methodology for determining the education grant;

3. *Decides*, pending the completion of the above review, to delegate to the Chairman of the Commission the authority requested in paragraph 230 (*e*) of the report of the Commission;

V

APPOINTMENTS OF LIMITED DURATION

Takes note of chapter VI.B of the report of the International Civil Service Commission,[35] and requests the Commission to continue its review of the subject of appointments of limited duration without delay;

VI

MOBILITY AND HARDSHIP

Recalling section I.E of its resolution 44/198, by which it introduced a mobility and hardship allowance with effect from 1 July 1990 and requested the International Civil Service Commission to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the operation of the allowance and the assignment grant,

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[43] Ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 30* and corrigendum (A/48/30 and Corr.1).

[44] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 9* and corrigendum (A/51/9 and Corr.1).

Recalling also section V of its resolution 47/216, by which it took note of the intention of the Commission to review the operation of the mobility and hardship scheme after more experience had been gained in its operation and requested the Commission to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session,

Recalling further section VI, paragraph 2, of its resolution 49/223, by which it requested the Commission to reconsider its decision to link hazard pay to the base/floor salary scale for internationally recruited staff and its decision on the level of hazard pay and to propose alternative approaches to hazard pay and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session,

1. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the International Civil Service Commission in respect of the operation of the mobility and hardship scheme as contained in chapter VII of its report;[35]

2. *Approves* the recommendations of the Commission regarding the mobility and hardship scheme as contained in paragraphs 304 (*d*) to (*g*) of its report;

3. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission to delink hazard pay from the base/floor salary scale for staff in the Professional and higher categories, and to review the level of hazard pay every two years;

4. *Requests* the Commission to review further the linkage between the base/floor salary scale and the mobility and hardship allowance, taking into account the views expressed by Member States in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly;

VII

STAFF PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Recalling section I.B of its resolution 47/216, section I of its resolution 48/224 and section II of its resolution 49/223,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the recent developments regarding the resumption of the dialogue between the International Civil Service Commission and the staff associations, as expressed in relevant statements in the Fifth Committee;

2. *Reiterates its request* in section IV, paragraph 4, of its resolution 50/208, wherein it called upon the Coordinating Committee for International Staff Unions and Associations of the United Nations System and the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations to resume participation in the work of the Commission in a spirit of cooperation and non-confrontation;

VIII

FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMISSION

Recognizing that an audit of the work of the International Civil Service Commission has not been undertaken since its establishment,

Calls upon the Board of Auditors, without prejudging its programme of work, to conduct a management review of all aspects of the work done by the secretariat of the Commission in time for the submission of a report thereon to the General Assembly during its fifty-second session;

IX

STATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM

Recalling its resolution 46/191 A,

Requests the International Civil Service Commission to take the lead in analysing new approaches in the human resources management field so as to develop standards, methods and arrangements that will respond to the specific needs, especially regarding future staffing, of the organizations of the United Nations common system, including consideration of flexible contractual arrangements, performance-based pay and the introduction of special occupational pay rates, and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its fifty-third session.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

ANNEX I

Salary scale for the Professional and higher categories showing annual gross salaries and net equivalents after application of staff assessment[a]

(United States dollars)

(Effective 1 January 1997)

								Steps								
Level		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV
Under-Secretary-General																
USG	Gross	142 546														
	Net D	99 059														
	Net S	89 069														
Assistant Secretary-General																
ASG	Gross	129 524														
	Net D	90 855														
	Net S	82 245														
Director																
D-2	Gross	106 053	108 373	110 704	113 056	115 409	117 763									
	Net D	76 033	77 516	78 998	80 480	81 963	83 446									
	Net S	69 824	71 112	72 384	73 616	74 849	76 083									
Principal Officer																
D-1	Gross	93 810	95 797	97 784	99 767	101 754	103 741	105 728	107 715	109 700						
	Net D	68 210	69 479	70 749	72 016	73 286	74 556	75 825	77 095	78 364						
	Net S	63 030	64 132	65 235	66 336	67 439	68 541	69 644	70 747	71 849						
Senior Officer																
P-5	Gross	82 758	84 534	86 310	88 085	89 861	91 655	93 453	95 251	97 047	98 845	100 643	102 439	104 237		
	Net D	61 090	62 239	63 387	64 536	65 685	66 833	67 982	69 131	70 278	71 427	72 576	73 724	74 873		
	Net S	56 664	57 707	58 749	59 791	60 833	61 834	62 832	63 829	64 826	65 824	66 822	67 819	68 817		
First Officer																
P-4	Gross	68 181	69 891	71 597	73 303	75 013	76 743	78 474	80 206	81 938	83 667	85 397	87 132	88 862	90 601	92 355
	Net D	51 597	52 718	53 838	54 957	56 078	57 198	58 318	59 438	60 559	61 678	62 797	63 920	65 039	66 159	67 280
	Net S	48 019	49 044	50 068	51 092	52 118	53 133	54 149	55 166	56 182	57 198	58 213	59 232	60 247	61 249	62 222
Second Officer																
P-3	Gross	55 700	57 282	58 866	60 446	62 030	63 612	65 196	66 802	68 405	70 011	71 614	73 218	74 822	76 445	78 073
	Net D	43 326	44 378	45 431	46 482	47 535	48 587	49 639	50 692	51 744	52 797	53 849	54 901	55 953	57 005	58 058
	Net S	40 419	41 387	42 356	43 323	44 292	45 260	46 228	47 191	48 153	49 116	50 079	51 041	52 003	52 958	53 914
Associate Officer																
P-2	Gross	44 830	46 208	47 586	48 967	50 345	51 726	53 106	54 485	55 889	57 303	58 717	60 134			
	Net D	35 921	36 864	37 804	38 745	39 686	40 627	41 568	42 509	43 451	44 391	45 332	46 274			
	Net S	33 701	34 556	35 408	36 261	37 113	37 966	38 820	39 672	40 534	41 399	42 265	43 132			
Assistant Officer																
P-1	Gross	34 152	35 417	36 710	38 004	39 297	40 590	41 887	43 180	44 473	45 786					
	Net D	28 435	29 341	30 245	31 150	32 054	32 958	33 864	34 768	35 671	36 576					
	Net S	26 825	27 658	28 488	29 319	30 149	30 979	31 811	32 641	33 471	34 296					

D = Rate applicable to staff members with a dependent spouse or child.

S = Rate applicable to staff members with no dependent spouse or child.

[a] This scale will be implemented in conjunction with a consolidation of 5.26 per cent of post adjustment. There will be consequential adjustments in the post adjustment indices and multipliers at all duty stations, effective 1 January 1997. Thereafter, changes in post adjustment classifications will be effected on the basis of the movements of the consolidated post adjustment indices.

ANNEX II

Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations

Regulation 3.3

1. Replace the tables in paragraph (*b*) (i) with the following:

Total assessable payments (United States dollars)	*Staff assessment rates for purposes of pensionable remuneration and pensions (percentage)*
Up to 20 000 per year	11
20 001 to 40 000 per year	18
40 001 to 60 000 per year	25
60 001 and above per year	30

Total assessable payments (United States dollars)	*Staff assessment rates used in conjunction with gross base salaries (percentage)*	
	Staff member with a dependent spouse or a dependent child	*Staff member with neither a dependent spouse nor a dependent child*
First 15 000 per year	9.0	11.8
Next 5 000 per year	18.1	24.6
Next 5 000 per year	21.5	27.1
Next 5 000 per year	24.9	31.7
Next 5 000 per year	27.5	33.4
Next 10 000 per year	30.1	35.8
Next 10 000 per year	31.8	38.2
Next 10 000 per year	33.5	38.8
Next 10 000 per year	34.4	40.0
Next 15 000 per year	35.3	41.3
Next 20 000 per year	36.1	44.5
Remaining assessable payments	37.0	47.6

2. Replace the table in paragraph (*b*) (ii) with the following:

Total assessable payments (United States dollars)	*Assessment (percentage)*
Up to 20 000 per year	19
20 001 to 40 000 per year	23
40 001 to 60 000 per year	26
60 001 and above per year	31

51/217. United Nations pension system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/242 of 21 December 1990, 46/192 of 20 December 1991, 47/203 of 22 December 1992, 48/224 and 48/225 of 23 December 1993 and 49/224 of 23 December 1994, as well as section VII of its resolution 50/216 of 23 December 1995 and its decision 50/485 of 7 June 1996,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board for 1996 to the General Assembly and to the member organizations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund,[45] chapter III of the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 1996,[46] the report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the Fund[47] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[48]

I

ACTUARIAL MATTERS

Recalling section II of its resolutions 47/203 and 48/225 and section I of its resolution 49/224,

Having considered the results of the valuation of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund as at 31 December 1995 and the observations thereon of the Consulting Actuary of the Fund, the Committee of Actuaries and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board,[49]

1. *Takes note* of the decrease in the actuarial imbalance from 1.49 to 1.46 per cent of pensionable remuneration, reflected in the valuation of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund as at 31 December 1995, and, in particular, of the opinions provided by the Consulting Actuary and the Committee of Actuaries, as reproduced in annexes IV and V, respectively, to the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board,[45] that there was no requirement, as at 31 December 1995, for deficiency payments under article 26 of the Regulations of the Fund and that the current contribution rate of 23.7 per cent of pensionable remuneration could be maintained for funding purposes, pending a review at the time of the next valuation, as at 31 December 1997, and in the light of future developments;

2. *Takes note also* of the reviews by the Standing Committee of the Board in 1995 and the Board in 1996 of the interest rate used to determine lump-sum commutations, and of the decision by the Board, under article 11 of the Regulations of the Fund, to retain the current 6.5 per cent interest rate, which would be reviewed again by the Board in 1998;

3. *Takes note further* of the review by the Board of further amendments required to article 28 of the Regulations of the Fund as a consequence of the increase in the maximum number of years of creditable contributory service that had been adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/224 and had entered into effect on 1 July 1995;

4. *Approves*, with retroactive effect as from 1 July 1996, amendments to paragraphs (*d*) and (*g*) of article 28 of the Regulations of the Fund, as set out in annex I to the present resolution.

II

PENSIONABLE REMUNERATION OF STAFF IN THE PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHER CATEGORIES AND IN THE GENERAL SERVICE AND RELATED CATEGORIES

Recalling section I, paragraph 3, of its resolution 45/242 and section I, paragraph 3, of its resolution 47/203 concerning its request to the International Civil Service Commission to undertake, in full cooperation with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, a further comprehensive review of the methodology for the determination of the scale of pensionable remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories, for monitoring the level of the scale and for its adjustment between comprehensive reviews, and to submit recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, in 1996,

Recalling also section I of its resolution 48/225, in which it approved (*a*) the use of the income replacement approach to determine the pensionable remuneration of staff in the General Service and related categories; (*b*) the application of an interim adjustment procedure similar to that applicable to staff in the Professional and higher categories, namely, on the basis of a 1:1 relationship to increases in the net salaries; and (*c*) the procedure recommended by the Commission for determining a common staff assessment scale, with two separate sets of rates (single and dependent), for introduction in 1997,

Recalling further its request to the Commission, in the same resolution, in close cooperation with the Board and as part of the comprehensive review in 1996 of the methodology to determine the pensionable remuneration and consequent pensions of staff in the Professional and higher categories, to develop a common staff assessment scale for the determination of the pensionable remuneration of all categories of staff using the approved procedure and reflecting the latest available tax rates,

Noting with satisfaction that the close cooperation between the Commission and the Board has resulted in agreement between the two bodies on the methodologies for determining the pensionable remuneration of all categories of staff and on the development and application of a common staff assessment scale for pensionable remuneration purposes, as reflected in their respective reports,

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[45] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 9* and corrigendum (A/51/9 and Corr.1).

[46] Ibid., *Supplement No. 30* (A/51/30).

[47] A/C.5/51/4.

[48] A/51/644.

[49] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 9*, sect. III.A.

Noting that the Commission, in accordance with article 10 (*d*) of its statute, has developed the common staff assessment scale for pensionable remuneration purposes, contained in annex IV to the report of the Commission,[46] taking into account the views of the Board as set out in paragraphs 152 to 159 of its report[45] and the considerations set out in paragraphs 83 to 89 of the report of the Commission,

Recalling its decision in section III of its resolution 51/216 of 18 December 1996 that the common staff assessment scale recommended by the Commission should be applied in determining the pensionable remuneration of all categories of staff, with effect from 1 January 1997, subject, in the case of staff in the General Service and related categories, to the procedure set out in paragraph 107 of the report of the Commission,

1. *Decides*, as regards staff in the Professional and higher categories, that:

(*a*) Income replacement in New York should continue to be used as the basis for the methodology for the determination of the pensionable remuneration of such staff;

(*b*) The methodology to determine the current scale of pensionable remuneration, described in annex I to the report of the International Civil Service Commission,[46] should continue to be used in the future;

(*c*) The current interim adjustment procedure for adjusting pensionable remuneration of such staff between comprehensive reviews should be continued, as described in annex I to the report of the Commission;

(*d*) The monitoring of pensionable remuneration and the United Nations/ United States income replacement ratios should be carried out on the occasion of periodic comprehensive reviews of the pensionable remuneration and consequent pensions of such staff; between comprehensive reviews, the Commission should review every two years the factors affecting the comparisons of pensionable remuneration and income replacement ratios and, if necessary, submit a report thereon to the General Assembly;

2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Commission to carry out, in close cooperation with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, on the occasion of future comprehensive reviews of the pensionable remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories, actuarial analyses of the pension benefits from the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund scheme and those applicable to the staff of the comparator service, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

3. *Amends*, with effect from 1 January 1997, article 54 (*b*) of the Regulations of the Fund, as set out in annex I to the present resolution, to incorporate the revised scale of pensionable remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories, using the approved common staff assessment scale;

4. *Decides*, as regards staff in the General Service and related categories, that:

(*a*) The income replacement approach and the methodology related thereto should continue to be used for the determination of pensionable remuneration of such staff, including the use of 66.25 per cent of the net pensionable salary for grossing-up purposes;

(*b*) The current interim adjustment procedure should continue to be used in the future;

5. *Takes note* of the decision of the Commission to establish a working group to review the methodology for identifying and quantifying the non-pensionable components of the salaries of staff in the General Service and related categories, as part of the Commission's review of the General Service salary-setting methodologies for headquarters and other duty stations scheduled for 1997;

6. *Requests* the Commission, in full cooperation with the Board, to undertake in 2002 further comprehensive reviews of the methodologies for the determination of the pensionable remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories and in the General Service and related categories, and for the adjustment of pensionable remuneration between comprehensive reviews, and to submit recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

III

PENSION ADJUSTMENT SYSTEM

Recalling section IV of its resolution 46/192, section V of its resolution 47/203, section I of its resolution 48/225 and section III of its resolution 49/224,

1. *Takes note* of the reviews carried out by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, as described in section VII of its report,[45] on various aspects of the pension adjustment system;

2. *Takes note also* of the results of the monitoring of the costs/savings of recent modifications of the two-track feature of the pension adjustment system and of the intention of the Board to continue to monitor those costs/savings every two years, on the occasion of the actuarial valuations of the Fund;

3. *Approves* changes in the pension adjustment system, as set out in annex II to the present resolution, (*a*) to include, without creating a precedent for other situations, with retroactive effect from 1 January 1996, a special measure for determining local currency track pension amounts for beneficiaries residing in countries where a new currency unit has been introduced that significantly strengthens the relationship of the local currency to the United States dollar, subject to the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 208 of the report of the Board,[45] and (*b*) to provide greater specificity in the criteria set out in paragraph 26 of the pension adjustment

system for discontinuing the local currency track pension amounts when they lead to aberrant results in a particular country;

4. *Takes note* of the further review carried out by the International Civil Service Commission and the Board of the provisions of the special index for pensioners, which are used to reduce or eliminate the compensation made for cost-of-living differences in the determination of the initial local currency track pensions under the two-track feature of the pension adjustment system whenever beneficiaries have a tax advantage in an otherwise high-cost country of retirement, and approves the agreed recommendation of the Commission and the Board that the current provisions of the special index for pensioners should be maintained.

IV

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RESOLVING PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSFER AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND AND THE FORMER UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, THE FORMER UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AND THE FORMER BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Recalling its resolutions 48/225 and 49/224,

Noting that the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund had transferred to the Social Security Fund of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the actuarial value of the pension rights accrued by individual former participants, as required under the relevant transfer agreements with the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the former Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the former Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,

1. *Takes note* of the legal opinion of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations set out in paragraph 124 of the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;[50]

2. *Notes* that the proposed agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Board, as set out in annex VI to the report of the Board,[45] does not give rise to any rights or entitlements of any kind for any person under the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, and that the provisions of the proposed agreement are not incorporated in any way in the Regulations or Administrative Rules of the Fund;

3. *Concurs* with the proposed agreement, which would represent the first step in resolving the problems that have arisen with respect to the application of the transfer agreements;

4. *Notes* that some Member States have expressed concern that the proposed agreement only covers certain former Fund participants who are now citizens of the Russian Federation;

5. *Endorses* the further steps envisaged in the proposed agreement and in paragraph 246 of the report of the Board, as endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 32 of its report,[48] and, towards this end, urges the Governments of the Member States concerned to undertake direct discussions aimed at resolving the financial issues involved in respect of those former participants who are their citizens or permanent residents;

6. *Requests* the Board to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the developments in respect of the further steps mentioned in paragraph 5 above and to submit to it recommendations related thereto, as appropriate.

V

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for the biennium ended 31 December 1995 had revealed no material weakness or errors in the procedures and operational systems of the Fund, nor any evidence of fraud;

2. *Takes note* of the measures taken and under consideration by the secretariat of the Fund to improve the procedures for verifying continuing eligibility for benefits from the Fund;

3. *Takes note also* of the arrangements made for internal audits of the Fund, to be carried out by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make available to the Fund the United Nations machinery for contracting and procurement, as recommended by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board in paragraph 111 of its report.[45]

VI

ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

Noting that the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea meets the conditions set out in article 3 of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for membership in the Fund,

Decides to approve the admission to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, as from 1 January 1997.

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[50] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 9* and corrigendum (A/48/9 and Corr.1).

VII

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND

Recalling section VII of its resolution 50/216 and its request, made on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, that the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board review the additional staffing proposals for the Investment Management Service that had been presented to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session in the budget proposals for the biennium 1996-1997,

Having considered the observations of the Board on the staffing of the Investment Management Service and on other requests for additional resources, as set out in paragraphs 313 to 328 of its report,[45]

Approves the additional staffing and other resources recommended by the Board, in paragraphs 330 and 332 of its report, involving expenses amounting to 1,187,200 United States dollars net for the biennium 1996-1997, chargeable directly to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, for the administration of the Fund.

VIII

OTHER MATTERS

Recalling its decision 50/485 concerning the provisions of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund governing the suspension of benefits in cases of re-employment of retirees in a member organization of the Fund and, in particular, its invitation to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to examine the possibility of suspending benefits in cases of re-employment for periods of less than six months,

1. *Takes note* of the review carried out by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, as set out in paragraphs 252 to 261 of its report,[45] and of its decision to defer consideration of a possible amendment of article 40 (*a*) of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, pending action by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the report it had requested from the Secretary-General on the question of the employment of retirees by the United Nations;

2. *Recalls* its decision 51/408 of 4 November 1996, in which it decided, *inter alia*, to set a ceiling on the amount that retired staff in receipt of a pension benefit from the Fund who are re-employed by the United Nations may earn per calendar year and to limit such employment to no more than six months per calendar year;

3. *Requests* the Board to continue its consideration of an amendment of article 40 (*a*) of the Regulations of the Fund in respect of the re-employment of retirees in receipt of benefits from the Fund under appointments of more than two but less than six months, and to submit a recommendation thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

4. *Takes note* of the review by the Board of the entitlement to survivors' benefits for spouses and former spouses, and of the intention of the Board to examine further the various aspects of this issue, including consideration by the Standing Committee of the Board in 1997 of a limited modification to the Fund's administrative rule B.4 on confidentiality and of the implications of introducing a payment facility in respect of court orders on family support, as well as consideration by the Board at its session in 1998 of the more far-reaching issue of the possible revision of articles 34 and 35 of the Regulations of the Fund;

5. *Notes* the other matters dealt with in section IX of the report of the Board.

IX

INVESTMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, on the review of the new custodial arrangements for the Fund's assets implemented in 1994 and on the review of the arrangements for the provision of institutional advisory services,[47] as well as the observations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board thereon in its report;[45]

2. *Takes note also* of the observations of the Board of Auditors on the outstanding tax refunds due to the Fund from some Member States in respect of direct taxes imposed on the Fund's investment income, as set out in paragraphs 41 to 43 of the report of the Board of Auditors and reproduced in annex III to the report of the Pension Board, and the comments of the Pension Board thereon;

3. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the increase in the number of Member States that have granted tax exemption for the investments of the Fund;

4. *Reiterates* its request to those Member States which do not grant such exemptions to make every possible effort to do so as soon as possible;

5. *Urges* those Member States which have outstanding balances on foreign tax accounts receivable, as shown in schedule 6 of the financial statements contained in annex II to the report of the Board, to make every possible effort to reimburse the amounts due as quickly as possible.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

ANNEX I

Amendments to the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Article 28

Retirement benefit

1. Replace paragraph (*d*) (i) (B) with the following:

"(*d*) (i) (B) The maximum benefit payable under the same provisions of (*b*) or (*c*) above to a participant at the level D-2 (top step for the preceding five years) separating on the same date as the participant."

2. Replace paragraph (*g*) (i) (B) with the following:

"(*g*) (i) (B) The actuarial equivalent of one third of the maximum benefit that would be payable to a participant retiring at the normal retirement age, on the same date as the participant, with a final average remuneration equal to the pensionable remuneration on that date for the top step of level P-5 on the scale of pensionable remuneration appended to article 54."

Article 54

Pensionable remuneration

1. Replace the first sentence of paragraph (*b*) with the following:

> "In the case of participants in the Professional and higher categories, the scale of pensionable remuneration effective 1 January 1997 shall be as set out in appendix B hereto."

2. Replace appendix B with the following:

Appendix B

PENSIONABLE REMUNERATION OF STAFF IN THE PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHER CATEGORIES

(United States dollars)

(Effective 1 January 1997)

	Steps														
Level	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV
USG	175 139														
ASG	161 876														
D-2	134 605	137 664	140 723	143 779	146 838	149 897									
D-1	119 218	121 663	124 107	126 547	128 992	131 558	134 177	136 797	139 413						
P-5	105 510	107 722	109 934	112 146	114 358	116 567	118 779	120 991	123 201	125 413	127 625	129 842	132 212		
P-4	87 233	89 392	91 547	93 702	95 861	98 016	100 173	102 330	104 487	106 642	108 797	110 959	113 113	115 270	117 428
P-3	72 604	74 457	76 311	78 162	80 016	81 869	83 721	85 576	87 516	89 544	91 569	93 595	95 620	97 645	99 673
P-2	59 564	61 224	62 880	64 538	66 194	67 852	69 509	71 165	72 825	74 481	76 137	77 796			
P-1	46 832	47 978	49 569	51 163	52 755	54 346	55 942	57 533	59 125	60 719					

ANNEX II

Changes in the pension adjustment system

I. *Payment of the benefit*

1. In paragraph 26, replace subparagraph (*a*) with the following:

> "(*a*) For countries where the application of the local currency track would lead to aberrant results, with wide fluctuations depending on the precise commencement date of the underlying benefit entitlement, establishment of a local currency base amount in accordance with section C may be discontinued by the Secretary of the Pension Board. In such cases, the Secretary shall duly inform the Board or the Standing Committee of this action, as soon as feasible;"

2. In paragraph 26, add a new subparagraph (*b*) reading:

> "(*b*) Aberrant results in (*a*) above may be due to, *inter alia*:
>
> "(i) A very high inflation rate and an exchange rate which either remained fixed or whose fluctuation was very limited in relation to the level of the inflation rate;

"(ii) The 36-month average of exchange rates covered different currency units or included a currency unit that was no longer applicable;

"(iii) Substantial depreciation of the local currency, combined with non-existent, inconsistent or outdated information on the movement of the country's consumer price index."

3. Renumber paragraph 26 (*b*) as 26 (*c*).

4. Add a new section Q reading:

"Q. *Special measure for determination of the local currency base amount in certain countries with a new currency unit*

"38. (*a*) For countries where a new currency unit was introduced on or after 1 January 1990 which represented, at the time of its introduction, an increase in the value of the local currency in relation to the United States dollar of at least 100 per cent, the local currency base amount under section C, paragraph 5 (*b*) (iii), above shall be determined in the following manner:

"(i) *For beneficiaries separating before or during the month of introduction of the new currency unit*: by applying to the dollar base amount, as adjusted under section H above to the date of introduction of the new local currency unit, the United Nations operational exchange rate in effect as of such date;

"(ii) *For beneficiaries separating after the end of the month of introduction of the new currency unit*: by applying to the dollar base amount the average of the United Nations operational exchange rates for the new local currency unit over the period from the effective month of introduction of the new currency unit to the month of separation, up to a maximum of 36 months;

"(*b*) This special measure shall apply to all beneficiaries who have provided, or will provide in future, proof of residence in a country which meets the criteria in subparagraph (*a*) above;

"(*c*) (i) The local currency base amount determined in accordance with subparagraph (*a*) (i) above shall be adjusted by the consumer price index movement, in accordance with section H above, as from the date of introduction of the new currency unit;

"(ii) The local currency base amount determined in accordance with subparagraph (*a*) (ii) above shall be adjusted by the consumer price index movement, in accordance with section H above;

"(*d*) The local currency amount calculated under this special measure will be paid only with effect from the first day of the quarter following submission of proof of residence, or, in cases where proof of residence had been submitted earlier, as from the first day of the quarter following the date of introduction of the new local currency unit, with retroactive effect only as from 1 January 1996;

"(*e*) Should the new local currency unit depreciate against the United States dollar by 50 per cent or more from its value on the date of introduction, beneficiaries covered by the special measure may exercise an option, within two years as from the date of implementation of the special measure, 1 January 1997, to withdraw their proof of residence and to have their pension benefits paid thereafter solely on the United States dollar track. Such reversion to the dollar track alone would be effective as from the first quarter following receipt of the beneficiary's withdrawal of proof of residence by the Fund secretariat."

51/218. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973, 43/232 of 1 March 1989, 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995 and 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, concerning the composition of groups for the apportionment of peacekeeping appropriations,

Recalling also its resolution 46/206 of 20 December 1991, in particular paragraph 6 thereof, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning regarding the inclusion of Zambia, among others, in the list of least developed countries,

Decides, as an ad hoc arrangement, in respect of the apportionment of peacekeeping expenses, that, from 1 January 1997, Zambia shall be included in the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (*d*) of resolution 43/232 and that its contributions to the financing of peacekeeping operations shall be calculated in accordance with the scale of assessments approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995 and subsequent resolutions to be adopted by the Assembly concerning future scales of assessments.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973, 43/232 of 1 March 1989, 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995 and 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, concerning the composition of groups for the apportionment of peacekeeping appropriations,

Recalling also its resolution 48/223 A of 23 December 1993, in which it set the rate of assessment for the regular budget for the Czech Republic,

1. *Welcomes* the readiness of the Czech Republic to be placed in the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (*b*) of General Assembly resolution 43/232 from 1 January 1997;

2. *Decides*, as an ad hoc arrangement, in respect of the apportionment of peacekeeping expenses, that, from 1 January 1997, the Czech Republic shall be included in the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (*b*) of resolution 43/232 and that its contributions to the financing of peacekeeping operations shall be calculated in accordance with the scale of assessments approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995 and subsequent resolutions to be adopted by the Assembly concerning future scales of assessments;

3. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, in respect of the apportionment of peacekeeping expenses, that, for the period from its admission on 19 January 1993 to 31 December 1996, the Czech Republic shall be included in the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (*c*) of resolution 43/232 and that its contributions to the financing of peacekeeping operations for this period shall be calculated in accordance with the scales of assessments approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 46/221 A of 20 December 1991, 48/223 A and 49/19 B and its decisions 47/456 of 23 December 1992 and 50/471 A;

4. *Recalls* that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 48/223 A, for the year of its admission, the Czech Republic shall contribute at the rate of one twelfth of its rate of assessment for each full month of membership; its contribution in the case of appropriations or apportionments approved by the General Assembly for the financing of peacekeeping operations shall be calculated in proportion to the calendar year;

5. *Decides* that, notwithstanding the provisions of resolution 48/223 A, the 1993 assessments of the Czech Republic for peacekeeping operations shall be credited to Member States included in the groups set out in paragraphs 3 (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) of resolution 43/232, as adjusted by subsequent resolutions, and that the relative shares for 1993 shall be calculated on the same basis as set out in paragraph 6 below;

6. *Decides also* that the contributions of the Czech Republic for the financing of peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1996 shall be credited to Member States in proportion to their effective rates of assessment for the financing of peacekeeping operations during the period, subject to the following:

(*a*) Member States included in the groups set out in paragraphs 3 (*c*) and (*d*) of resolution 43/232, as adjusted by subsequent resolutions, shall be credited with the full amount by which their aggregate contributions for the financing of peacekeeping operations during the period in question exceeded the aggregate level that would have applied had the Czech Republic been included in one of the groups of Member States set out in paragraph 3 of resolution 43/232, as adjusted by subsequent resolutions;

(*b*) The full balance of the contributions of the Czech Republic for the financing of peacekeeping operations for the period in question, after provision for crediting Member States pursuant to paragraph 6 (*a*) above, shall be credited to Member States included in the group set out in paragraph 3 (*b*) of resolution 43/232, as adjusted by subsequent resolutions.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973, 43/232 of 1 March 1989, 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995 and 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, concerning the composition of groups for the apportionment of peacekeeping appropriations,

Recalling also its resolution 48/223 A of 23 December 1993, in which it set the rate of assessment for the regular budget for Slovakia,

1. *Decides*, as an ad hoc arrangement, in respect of the apportionment of peacekeeping expenses, that, for the period from its admission on 19 January 1993 to 31 December 1996, Slovakia shall be included in the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (*c*) of resolution 43/232 and that its contributions to the financing of peacekeeping operations for this period shall be calculated in accordance with the scales of assessments approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 46/221 A of 20 December 1991, 48/223 A and 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decisions 47/456 of 23 December 1992 and 50/471 A of 23 December 1995;

2. *Recalls* that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 48/223 A, for the year of its admission, Slovakia

shall contribute at the rate of one twelfth of its rate of assessment for each full month of membership; its contribution in the case of appropriations or apportionments approved by the General Assembly for the financing of peacekeeping operations shall be calculated in proportion to the calendar year;

3. *Decides* that, notwithstanding the provisions of resolution 48/223 A, the 1993 assessments of Slovakia for peacekeeping operations shall be credited to Member States included in the groups set out in paragraphs 3 (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) of resolution 43/232, as adjusted by subsequent resolutions, and that the relative shares for 1993 shall be calculated on the same basis as set out in paragraph 4 below;

4. *Decides also* that the contributions of Slovakia for the financing of peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1996 shall be credited to Member States in proportion to their effective rates of assessment for the financing of peacekeeping operations during the period, subject to the following:

(*a*) Member States included in the groups set out in paragraphs 3 (*c*) and (*d*) of resolution 43/232, as adjusted by subsequent resolutions, shall be credited with the full amount by which their aggregate contributions for the financing of peacekeeping operations during the period in question exceeded the aggregate level that would have applied had Slovakia been included in one of the groups of Member States set out in paragraph 3 of resolution 43/232, as adjusted by subsequent resolutions;

(*b*) The full balance of the contributions of Slovakia for the financing of peacekeeping operations for the period in question, after provision for crediting Member States pursuant to paragraph 4 (*a*) above, shall be credited to Member States included in the group set out in paragraph 3 (*b*) of resolution 43/232, as adjusted by subsequent resolutions.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

D

The General Assembly

Decides to continue its consideration of the agenda item entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations" at its resumed fifty-first session.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

51/219. Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 45/253 of 21 December 1990, 47/214 of 23 December 1992 and section I.B of its resolution 48/218 A of 23 December 1993 and its decision 50/452 of 22 December 1995,

Having examined the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,[51]

Having considered the views of the Main Committees of the General Assembly on the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,

Having also considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-sixth session,[52]

Having further considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995[53] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives,[54]

I

MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1998-2001

1. *Adopts* the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,[55] together with the relevant recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[56] and the additional conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the present resolution, taking into account the views of the Main Committees of the General Assembly;

2. *Reaffirms* that the medium-term plan, as adopted, is the principal policy directive of the United Nations and shall serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets;

3. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that the medium-term plan reflects all mandated programmes and activities, and decides to include reference in the approved version of the plan to the legislative mandates relevant to the work to be carried out;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[57] taking into account the views expressed by Member States thereon, and to submit such revisions to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session;

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[51] A/51/6 (Perspective), A/51/6 (Note) and A/51/6 (Progs. 1-25).

[52] A/51/16 (Parts I and II); see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 16.*

[53] A/51/128 and Add.1.

[54] A/51/88, annex.

[55] A/51/6 (Progs. 1-25); see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 6.*

[56] See A/51/16 (Parts I and II); see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 16.*

[57] ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987).

5. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of the consultative process with Member States;

7. *Also emphasizes* the importance of the contribution of the sectoral, regional and central intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Main Committees of the General Assembly, in reviewing and improving the quality of the medium-term plan and its revisions;

8. *Regrets* that some programmes of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 were not reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures, including ad hoc measures, and to submit proposals to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, so as to enable the Main Committees of the General Assembly as well as the sectoral, functional and regional bodies effectively to review the relevant portions of the medium-term plan or its revisions, with a view to facilitating their consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Fifth Committee;

II

STRUCTURE

1. *Notes with concern* that the Secretary-General, in presenting the programme structure of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, did not take fully into account the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions or the views and opinions expressed by Member States, as requested in decision 50/452;

2. *Decides* to approve the programme structure of the medium-term plan, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Decides also* to maintain disarmament as an independent programme in the medium-term plan;

4. *Decides further* to adopt programme 19 (Human rights) without prejudice to consideration by the General Assembly of the ongoing process of restructuring the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat;

5. *Decides* to review in depth the structure of the medium-term plan at its fifty-fifth session, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

III

PRIORITIES

1. *Stresses* the importance of priority-setting as an integral part of the planning, programming and budgeting process;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session recommendations on priority-setting, including at the subprogramme level, within the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to implement the medium-term plan in accordance with the agreed overall priorities as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

IV

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE REPORT

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995;[53]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[56] regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995;

V

OTHER CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-sixth session[56] that have not otherwise been approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

2. *Notes with concern* the low rate of implementation of the self-evaluation of the programmes, as reflected in paragraph 269 of the report of the Board of Auditors.[58]

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

ANNEX

Conclusions and recommendations on programmes and subprogrammes of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Introduction and priorities

1. The medium-term plan is a translation of legislative mandates into programmes. Its objectives and strategies are derived from the policy orientations and goals set by the intergovernmental organs. In this respect, the medium-term plan constitutes the principal policy directive of the United Nations.

2. In response to the need to address efficiently and effectively persistent problems, as well as to respond to emerging trends and challenges of the future, the Organization

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[58] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/51/5), vol. I, sect. II.

will, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, give priority to the following areas of work during the implementation of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001:

(*a*) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(*b*) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences;

(*c*) Development of Africa;

(*d*) Promotion of human rights;

(*e*) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(*f*) Promotion of justice and international law;

(*g*) Disarmament;

(*h*) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

Programme 1. Political affairs

Paragraph 1.1

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*a*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

At the end of the paragraph add:

> The programme also includes the promotion of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions.

Paragraph 1.3

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*b*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

In the third line, *for* recent resolutions 47/120 A *read* relevant resolutions, including resolutions 47/120 A

Paragraph 1.4 (b)

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*c*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Paragraph 1.4 (d)

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*d*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Paragraph 1.4 (h)

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*e*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

At the end of the paragraph, insert:

> as well as assistance to and cooperation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in the implementation of its mandate

Paragraph 1.5

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*f*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Paragraph 1.6

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*g*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Paragraph 1.7

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*h*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Paragraph 1.8

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*i*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Paragraph 1.9

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*j*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Paragraph 1.10

Replace the first sentence with the following:

> In implementing the subprogramme, the Department will strive in particular to reinforce the Organization's capacity for early warning and good offices, and for non-military measures to prevent disputes from escalating into conflicts, as well as for resolving those which have erupted, while fully respecting the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Member States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, as well as the principle of consent, which is an essential element for the success of such efforts.

Paragraph 1.11

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*l*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Paragraph 1.12

Replace the last sentence with the following:

Contact with relevant regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other private and academic research institutes, without compromising the impartiality of the United Nations, will also be maintained as part of this subprogramme to assist the Secretary-General in his political contacts with Member States.

Paragraphs 1.13 to 1.18

Replace the text of the paragraphs with the following, as a separate programme:

1.13. The mandate for the programme on disarmament stems from the Charter of the United Nations and from the aims and purposes proclaimed by the General Assembly. The implementation of this programme should be guided by the priorities established in the relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions. The Centre for Disarmament Affairs is responsible for implementing this programme.

1.14. The first objective of this programme is to provide organizational and substantive secretariat support to multilateral bodies entrusted with deliberation and/or negotiations on disarmament issues, including the meeting of States parties and other international meetings related to multilateral disarmament agreements.

1.15. The second objective is to follow and assess current and future trends in the field of disarmament and international security in order to assist Member States, and to enable the Secretary-General also to assist them, in their search for agreement. Apart from substantive issues involved in the deliberative and/or negotiating process, this activity should address the challenges arising from the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions as well as relevant treaties.

1.16. The third objective will be to support and promote regional disarmament efforts and initiatives using approaches freely among the States of the region and taking into account the legitimate requirements of States for self-defence and specific characteristics of each region. Regional solutions will be more vigorously pursued as regional conflicts increasingly pose a threat to peace and security. Regional dialogue on crucial disarmament and security issues will be advanced through, *inter alia*, the organization of conferences.

1.17. The fourth objective consists of providing impartial, factual information on the disarmament efforts of the United Nations to Member States, parliamentarians, research and academic institutions and specialized non-governmental organizations through the disarmament information programme and by providing Member States with full access to all relevant databases, including on disarmament. This would include, as appropriate, organizing open-ended conferences, seminars and workshops for informal exchanges of views on arms control, disarmament and international security issues. The disarmament fellowship programme will continue to be pursued with the primary objective of promoting further the disarmament expertise of Member States, particularly in the developing countries. Member States will be assisted in addressing specific disarmament concerns through the provision of training and advisory services.

1.18. The fifth objective would be to continue to inform the public on an objective and updated basis of the United Nations disarmament activities. In this context, the three regional centres for peace and disarmament established in Nepal, Peru and Togo should be utilized. These centres should address the important security problems in their respective regions and subregions in a balanced manner.

1.19. This programme is expected to enable Member States to conduct deliberations and negotiations on disarmament issues in a smooth and efficient manner; facilitate the task of the Secretary-General in the conduct of his relations with Member States on disarmament matters; contribute to an integrated approach to issues relating to the maintenance of peace and security; and facilitate the exchange of ideas between governmental and non-governmental sectors with a view to promoting a better understanding of United Nations endeavours in the field of disarmament.

Paragraph 1.19

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*v*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, with the following modification:

After in accordance with the *insert* relevant

Paragraph 1.21

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*w*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Paragraph 1.30

Replace the text of the paragraph with the following, as a new subprogramme:

The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(*a*) To promote the decolonization process in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly for the seventeen remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(*b*) To strengthen the dissemination of information on decolonization in order to mobilize world opinion and to ensure the provision by the specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations of assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples will continue to examine the application of the Declaration and to seek suitable means for its immediate and full implementation in all Territories that have not yet exercised their rights in accordance with the Charter and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. It will formulate specific proposals to this effect, examine the full compliance with the Declaration and other resolutions, formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and report thereon to the General Assembly and enlist worldwide support for decolonization. The Special Committee will continue to dispatch visiting missions periodically to colonial Territories, in consultation with the administering Powers, so as to enable the Special Committee to obtain first-hand information on conditions in those Territories; examine the views, expressed orally or in writing by peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also the views of the representatives of non-governmental organizations and individuals with a knowledge of conditions in those Territories; and assist the General Assembly in making arrangements, in cooperation with the administering Powers, to secure a United Nations presence in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to observe or supervise the final stages of the process of decolonization.

The Department of Political Affairs will continue to assist the Special Committee in the implementation of its mandate, as well as the General Assembly, in connection with issues under this subprogramme, as appropriate. To that end, the Department will:

(*a*) Provide substantive servicing to the Special Committee and its visiting and other missions, as well as to the General Assembly when they review issues relating to decolonization;

(*b*) Undertake research, analytical studies and reports on conditions in the Territories;

(*c*) Provide assistance to the Special Committee in the preparation of its reports to the General Assembly;

(*d*) Collect, review and disseminate basic material, studies and articles relating to decolonization;

(*e*) Promote, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, a publicity campaign on decolonization. Subject to the relevant decisions by the Special Committee, this will entail organizing panel discussions and seminars, producing and disseminating publications, organizing exhibits and coordinating international activities aimed at the elimination of colonialism, including liaison with international organizations and individuals concerned with the problems of decolonization;

(*f*) Promote flows of assistance from specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations to the people in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Paragraph 1.31

Replace the paragraph with the following:

The General Assembly Affairs Division will provide the required substantive services and prepare reports of the Trusteeship Council if it should meet, in accordance with its rules of procedure.

Paragraph 1.33

In the last line, *after* their *insert* inalienable

Paragraph 1.34

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*z*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Replace the second sentence with the following:

The Division for Palestinian Rights, which works in consultation with and under the guidance of the Committee, is responsible for providing secretariat services in support of this subprogramme.

Paragraph 1.35

The General Assembly approves the proposal contained in paragraph 46 (*aa*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Replace the second sentence with the following:

The Middle East peace process gave rise to renewed hopes for final settlement and opened new possibilities for supportive action by the United Nations.

Paragraph 1.36

Replace the paragraph with the following:

A third objective will be to heighten awareness of all aspects of the question of Palestine by providing forums to facilitate consideration of relevant issues and promote dialogue among parties concerned, Governments, United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and prominent personalities.

Paragraph 1.37

Replace the paragraph with the following:

A fourth objective will be to continue to provide information on the question of Palestine and continue the development of the United Nations computer-based information system on the question of Palestine (UNISPAL), in cooperation with relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, and United Nations organs, organizations, bodies and specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations.

Programme 3. Outer space affairs

Modify the title of the programme to read:

Peaceful uses of outer space

Programme 4. Legal affairs

Paragraph 4.9

At the end of the paragraph, add:

The negotiation, where required, of status-of-forces agreements between the United Nations and the host Governments in connection with the activities of United Nations peacekeeping operations will also form an important objective of this subprogramme. In this regard, due consideration should be given to the obligation of United Nations officials in the conduct of their duties to observe fully both the laws and regulations of Member States and their duties and responsibilities to the Organization.

Programme 6. Africa: New Agenda for Development

Paragraph 6.2

In the tenth line, *for* is to be *read* was

Paragraph 6.6

In subparagraph (*a*), *after* New Agenda *insert* in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/32

Paragraph 6.8

In subparagraph (*b*), *after* New Agenda, *insert* including those agreed upon at its mid-term review;

Paragraph 6.10

In subparagraph (*b*), *after* New Agenda and *insert* the complementary role of

Add a new subparagraph (*d*) reading:

(*d*) To promote and strengthen subregional and regional cooperation and integration through appropriate programmes, especially those identified in the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

Programme 7. Economic and social information and policy analysis

Paragraph 7.5

At the end of the paragraph, insert:

and provide for improved coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and other relevant statistics-producing intergovernmental organizations

Programme 8. Development support and management services

Paragraph 8.1

Replace the paragraph with the following:

The general purpose of the programme, for which the Department for Development Support and Management Services has responsibility, is to support the efforts of the developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to create and support a favourable climate for sustainable development. Thus, it should support, by means of technical cooperation, the activities of Member States aimed at strengthening their administrative and financial systems for development, consolidating institutional capabilities and infrastructures and implementing economic and social policies, according to their national development priorities, so as to contribute to sustainable development. To this end, the programme makes available to the developing countries and those with economies in transition, technical know-how and personnel specialized in the fields of public administration and finance, economic and social policy and planning, as well as the planning and management of natural and energy resources.

Subprogramme 8.1

Modify the title of the subprogramme to read:

Public administration, finance and development

Programme 9. Trade and development

Paragraph 9.3

Replace the first sentence with the following:

At the ninth session of UNCTAD, Governments recognized that development had evolved from a narrow focus on economic growth and capital accumulation to a multidimensional process, with the ultimate goal of bettering the human condition.

In the second sentence, *after* confront *insert* growing

Paragraph 9.5

Replace the paragraph with the following:

At its ninth session, UNCTAD, as part of the United Nations system and a contributor to its revitalization, has adopted far-reaching reforms, as embodied in the Midrand Declaration and "A Partnership for Growth and Development", adopted by consensus at that session of the Conference, which encompass its programme of work, its intergovernmental machinery and the reform of its secretariat, including its complementarity with the World Trade Organization, *inter alia*, by making its analysis of trade and development available to the World Trade Organization, and its cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and relevant organizations. In consequence, UNCTAD is adapting itself to new economic and institutional modalities created by the process of globalization, the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and agreements, and the creation of the World Trade Organization.

Add a new paragraph 9.5 (*bis*) reading:

UNCTAD will continue its role as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

Add a new paragraph 9.5 (*ter*) reading:

UNCTAD will deal with the problems of the least developed countries, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, the empowerment of women and economic cooperation among developing countries in a cross-cutting manner. While concentrating on its main activities and objectives, UNCTAD will pay due attention to the outcome of global conferences.

Paragraph 9.11

Add a new subparagraph (*e*) reading:

(*e*) To continue the work of UNCTAD, in accordance with its mandate, in assisting the Palestinian people to develop capacities for effective policy-making and management pertaining to international trade, investment and related services. In this regard, UNCTAD should take into account the work done by other international organizations in order to enhance synergies, avoid duplication and coordinate related activities.

Paragraph 9.17

In the fourth line, *after* developing countries *insert* , such as landlocked and small island developing States,

Paragraph 9.21

In the second line, *for* Least Developed Countries, *read* Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries

Paragraph 9.22

Add a new subparagraph (*c*) reading:

(*c*) To ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, particularly as it relates to the specific role assigned to UNCTAD in the areas of trade research and analysis.

Paragraph 9.23

Delete the paragraph.

Paragraph 9.24

The last sentence should read:

In accordance with the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference, in particular paragraphs 106 and 113 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development", least developed countries will constitute a cross-cutting issue in the work of UNCTAD and the sectoral issues will be dealt with by the divisions of UNCTAD within their respective mandates.

Programme 11. Human settlements

Modify the title of subprogramme 4 to read:

Assessment, monitoring and information

Programme 13. International drug control

Paragraph 13.1

In the first sentence, *delete* , both of which have proliferated in the wake of the globalization of trade, travel and communications

Programme 15. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

Paragraph 15.4

At the end of the paragraph, add:

It will emphasize South-South cooperation, including the triangular modality of collaboration, to guide specific activities in achieving the objectives of the various subprogrammes.

Paragraph 15.6

In the second sentence, *for* with support *read* with appropriate support

In the same sentence, *after* developed countries *insert* as well as from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes

In the same sentence, *delete* , that is, tripartite cooperation

Paragraph 15.11

Replace the second sentence with the following:

The goal is to strengthen national capacities in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development, focusing on the regional strategies and action programmes that have emerged from recent global conferences such as the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in March 1995, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul in June 1996.

Add a new subparagraph (*c*) (*bis*) reading:

To work with Governments and regional and international associations of local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions and other regional or subregional groupings to develop regional human settlement plans of action, addressing priority issues specific to the Asia and Pacific region.

Add a new subparagraph (*f*) (*bis*) reading:

To promote opportunities that will enable developing countries to acquire environmentally friendly or sound technology to contribute to the strengthening of national capacities in achieving sustainable development.

Programme 19. Human rights

Paragraph 19.1

Replace the last sentence with the following:

The programme is based on the principles and recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

Paragraph 19.2

The beginning of the paragraph should read:

The programme is under the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who performs his functions under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 48/141, and its objectives are to provide the leading role on human rights issues...

In the eighth line, *delete* potential

Paragraph 19.3

The General Assembly approves the proposals contained in paragraphs 199 (*e*) and (*f*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Replace subparagraph (*h*) with the following:

(*h*) The adoption of more efficient methods within the United Nations to promote and protect human rights, including by preventing human rights violations throughout the world and removing obstacles to the full realization of human rights;

Delete subparagraph (*j*).

In subparagraph (*m*), *for* participation *read* contribution

At the end of subparagraph (*m*), *insert* according to the legislative mandates in effect regarding these issues

Paragraph 19.4

Delete the paragraph.

Paragraph 19.5

The beginning of the paragraph should read:

The primary objectives of this subprogramme will include promotion and protection of the right to development. In this regard, the objectives will be...

The General Assembly approves the proposals contained in paragraph 199 (*h*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, with the following amendments:

In the fourth line, *after* Right to Development *insert* and subsequent mandates

In the seventh line, *after* right to development *insert* as an integral part of fundamental human rights

Paragraph 19.7

Delete the first sentence.

Paragraph 19.8

Delete the first sentence.

Programme 23. Public information

Add a new paragraph 23.6 (*bis*) reading:

Some long-standing world problems persist and an informed understanding among the peoples of the world is still needed and remains one of the objectives of the Department. This is especially true in the areas of peace, security and disarmament; the question of Palestine; self-determination and decolonization; human rights, including racial discrimination; and development.

Paragraph 23.7

For major *read* first

Programme 24. Administrative services

Paragraph 24.12 (a)

At the end of paragraph 231 (*h*) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, *insert* under relevant regulations established by the General Assembly

51/220. Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1998-1999

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[59] the related recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[60] and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[61]

1. *Reaffirms* that the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 shall contain an indication of:

(*a*) A preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(*b*) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(*c*) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(*d*) The size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium, promote a greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process and thereby facilitate the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[60] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[61]

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 on the basis of a total preliminary estimate of 2,512 million United States dollars at initial 1996-1997 rates, recosted to 2,480 million dollars at revised 1996-1997 rates;

5. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate at 1998-1999 rates, namely at 19 million dollars;

6. *Also decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

7. *Further decides* that the preliminary estimate of resources for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 does not include a provision for special missions for which there are no legislative mandates;

8. *Decides* that the priorities for the biennium 1998-1999 are the following:

(*a*) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(*b*) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences;

(*c*) Development of Africa;

(*d*) Promotion of human rights;

(*e*) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(*f*) Promotion of justice and international law;

(*g*) Disarmament;

(*h*) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, the following information:

(*a*) Outputs deferred, postponed or curtailed in 1996-1997 and their disposition in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

(*b*) Number of posts for the biennium by section and by category;

(*c*) Proposed vacancy rate for the Professional and the General Service categories for budgetary purposes;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive policy paper which will examine all issues related to the question of all additional expenditures referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213, including those relating to the maintenance of peace and security, inflation and currency fluctuation, and to submit that report to the Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, no later than 31 May 1997 with a view to finding a comprehensive solution to such questions.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

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[59] A/51/289.

[60] A/51/16 (Parts I and II); see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 16.*

[61] A/51/720.

51/221. Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

A

The General Assembly

I

REVISED ESTIMATES RESULTING FROM THE RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Takes note of the estimates of 501,000 United States dollars under section 13 (Crime control) and 595,200 dollars under section 14 (International drug control) on the understanding that such additional appropriations as may be necessary will be determined in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund, taking into account the results of the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;[62]

II

REQUEST FOR A SUBVENTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH RESULTING FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INSTITUTE ON THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INSTITUTE FOR 1997

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General[63] and of the recommendations thereon of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and approves the subvention of 213,000 dollars for the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research for 1997;

III

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

Recalling its resolution 48/263 of 28 July 1994, in which it decided to fund the administrative expenses of the International Seabed Authority until the end of the year following the year during which the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 entered into force,

Recalling also its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995, in which it made provision for the budget of the Authority for 1996,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the budget of the Authority for 1997,[64]

1. *Approves* the recommendation thereon of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report;[65]

2. *Requests* the International Seabed Authority to take all necessary action to ensure that its budget for 1997 is implemented with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

3. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to provide conference services for the meetings of the Authority to be held from 17 to 28 March and from 18 to 29 August 1997 from the resources available under section 26E (Conference services) of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;[66]

4. *Decides* to make a provision of 2,750,500 dollars for the Authority for its administrative expenses in 1997 under section 33 (International Seabed Authority) of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

5. *Decides also* that the provision for 1997 should be charged to the contingency fund;

IV

FIRST PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

1. *Takes note* of the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997[62] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary questions;[67]

2. *Reaffirms* its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986;

3. *Notes* that, according to the first performance report, involuntary separations of staff have not been used in order to implement its resolutions 50/231 and 50/232 of 7 June 1996;

4. *Approves* a net decrease of 5,580,200 dollars in the appropriations approved for the biennium 1996-1997 and a net decrease of 19,682,000 dollars in the estimates of income for the biennium 1996-1997, to be apportioned among expenditure and income sections as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General;

V

CONTINGENCY FUND

Notes that a balance of 15,358,200 dollars remains in the contingency fund.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

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[62] A/C.5/51/38.

[63] A/C.5/51/33.

[64] A/C.5/51/21.

[65] A/51/7/Add.2; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 7.*

[66] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/50/6/Rev.1).

[67] A/51/7/Add.6; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 7.*

B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[68] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[69]

Recalling its resolution 50/214, in which it decided, *inter alia*, that the vacancy rate would be 6.4 per cent for both Professional and General Service posts, and its resolutions 50/215 A to C and 50/216 of 23 December 1995 and 50/230 of 7 June 1996,

Recalling also the request made to the Secretary-General in section II, paragraph 7, of resolution 50/214 to submit, as soon as possible, and no later than 31 March 1996, to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee, a report containing proposals of possible savings for its consideration and approval,

Reaffirming the role of the current intergovernmental process in reviewing the efficiency and reform of the programmes and activities and the need to avoid duplication,

Recognizing the need to integrate all elements of internal reviews of efficiency in the Secretariat,

Recognizing also the role of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts in management reforms and in ensuring adequate programme delivery and efficiency,

Regretting that the information requested by the Advisory Committee on personnel- and programme-related issues, including whether consultants were hired to carry out work previously performed by staff on posts, was not provided,

Recalling its decision 50/506 of 17 September 1996,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987;

2. *Reaffirms also* part VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, which relates to the involvement of different bodies in the budgetary process;

3. *Reaffirms further* the requirement of all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations promptly and in full;

4. *Recognizes* the detrimental effect of the withholding of assessed contributions on the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations;

5. *Reaffirms* that the authority to create, transfer and abolish posts under the regular budget is the prerogative of the General Assembly;

6. *Recalls* the authority of the Secretary-General as chief administrative officer, as provided for under Article 97 of the Charter;

7. *Endorses* the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[69] with the exception of paragraph 28, second sentence, and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

8. *Expresses its concern* that the report of the Secretary-General does not contain a clear indication of the extent to which the approved vacancy level of 6.4 per cent has been exceeded in order to reach the savings called for in its resolution 50/214;

9. *Reiterates its decision* that savings in the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 should not affect the full implementation of mandated programmes and activities;

10. *Reiterates* that any proposal to change mandated programmes and activities is subject to prior approval of the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee and other relevant bodies;

11. *Notes* the assurances of the Secretary-General that he will not take any decision on the involuntary separation of staff members, including those on the redeployment list, to achieve savings in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/214;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of General Assembly decision 50/506, to report to the Fifth Committee during the resumed session of the Assembly on the progress achieved in the placement of the staff on the redeployment list, taking into account their skills and experience;

13. *Requests* that the information requested by the Advisory Committee in its report[69] be presented no later than 1 March 1997;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in connection with paragraphs 25 to 31 of the report of the Advisory Committee, to report, through the Office of Internal Oversight Services, no later than 1 March 1997, on the use of consultants and associated contractual procedures in the United Nations during the calendar year 1996;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to review the effect of vacant posts on programme delivery and to recommend, if appropriate, restoration of the funding of these posts in the context of the budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

16. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to avoid duplication of efficiency review procedures;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to integrate and harmonize, where appropriate, efficiency reviews, including those of the intergovernmental machinery, with programme planning and budget reviews;

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[68] A/C.5/50/57/Add.1.

[69] A/51/7/Add.1; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 7.*

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to relevant intergovernmental bodies on the efficiency proposals which have programmatic and programme budget implications that require prior legislative approval;

19. *Regrets* that the programme performance report on the impact of approved savings measures on the implementation of mandated programmes and activities, requested in section II, paragraph 11, of its resolution 50/214, to be submitted no later than the end of its fiftieth session, has not been submitted;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, no later than 1 March 1997, the above-mentioned programme performance report, and decides to consider it as a matter of priority during the first part of its resumed session;

21. *Decides* that no changes to the budget methodology, to established budgetary procedures and practices or to the financial regulations can be implemented without prior review and approval by the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee, in accordance with agreed budgetary procedures.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

51/222. Programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

A

REVISED BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the biennium 1996-1997, the amount of 2,608,274,000 United States dollars appropriated by it in its resolution 50/215 A of 23 December 1995 shall be adjusted by 4,993,100 dollars as follows:

Section		*Amount approved by resolution 50/215 A*	*Increase or (decrease)*	*Revised appropriation*
			(*United States dollars*)	
PART I	*Overall policy-making, direction and coordination*			
1.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	40 348 200	(999 000)	39 349 200
	TOTAL, PART I	**40 348 200**	**(999 000)**	**39 349 200**
PART II.	*Political affairs*			
2.	Political affairs	60 989 500	(2 053 100)	58 936 400
3.	Peacekeeping operations and special missions	102 868 200	32 637 100	135 505 300
4.	Outer space affairs	4 705 500	(529 100)	4 176 400
	TOTAL, PART II	**168 563 200**	**30 054 900**	**198 618 100**
PART III.	*International justice and law*			
5.	International Court of Justice	21 339 600	(1 353 700)	19 985 900
6.	Legal activities	31 605 400	(1 350 900)	30 254 500
	TOTAL, PART III	**52 945 000**	**(2 704 600)**	**50 240 400**
PART IV.	*International cooperation for development*			
7A.	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	44 318 700	(2 380 400)	41 938 300

Section		*Amount approved by resolution 50/215 A*	*Increase or (decrease)*	*Revised appropriation*
			(*United States dollars*)	
7B.	Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development	4 305 100	60 700	4 365 800
8.	Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis	48 612 100	(1 335 900)	47 276 200
9.	Department for Development Support and Management Services	26 556 000	255 400	26 811 400
10A.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	121 925 300	(11 699 000)	110 226 300
10B.	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT	21 642 000	684 600	22 326 600
11.	United Nations Environment Programme	9 512 200	(1 281 100)	8 231 100
12.	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	13 059 600	(1 327 900)	11 731 700
13.	Crime control	5 254 600	(59 700)	5 194 900
14.	International drug control	17 344 100	(1 149 100)	16 195 000
	TOTAL, PART IV	**312 529 700**	**(18 232 400)**	**294 297 300**
PART V.	*Regional cooperation for development*			
15.	Economic Commission for Africa	87 845 600	(5 484 700)	82 360 900
16.	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	66 379 300	1 108 000	67 487 300
17.	Economic Commission for Europe	52 883 100	(4 931 400)	47 951 700
18.	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	88 327 200	(5 811 800)	82 515 400
19.	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	37 791 200	(3 647 900)	34 143 300
20.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	44 814 700	(7 438 800)	37 375 900
	TOTAL, PART V	**378 041 100**	**(26 206 600)**	**351 834 500**
PART VI.	*Human rights and humanitarian affairs*			
21.	Human rights	52 987 600	(4 987 000)	48 000 600

		Amount approved by resolution 50/215 A	*Increase or (decrease)*	*Revised appropriation*
Section			*(United States dollars)*	
22.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	54 318 500	(4 179 400)	50 139 100
23.	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	22 643 000	(5 338 100)	17 304 900
24.	Department of Humanitarian Affairs	21 039 300	(2 083 800)	18 955 500
	TOTAL, PART VI	**150 988 400**	**(16 588 300)**	**134 400 100**
PART VII.	*Public information*			
25.	Public information	137 658 000	(5 267 200)	132 390 800
	TOTAL, PART VII	**137 658 000**	**(5 267 200)**	**132 390 800**
PART VIII.	*Common support services*			
26.	Administration and management	960 885 100	(44 803 600)	916 081 500
	TOTAL, PART VIII	**960 885 100**	**(44 803 600)**	**916 081 500**
PART IX.	*Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses*			
27.	Jointly financed administrative activities	28 915 000	(1 431 200)	27 483 800
28.	Special expenses	41 701 700	(351 300)	41 350 400
	TOTAL, PART IX	**70 616 700**	**(1 782 500)**	**68 834 200**
PART X.	*Office of Internal Oversight Services*			
29.	Office of Internal Oversight Services	15 716 500	(705 000)	15 011 500
	TOTAL, PART X	**15 716 500**	**(705 000)**	**15 011 500**
PART XI.	*Capital expenditures*			
30.	Technological innovations	21 999 600	(699 400)	21 300 200
31.	Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	31 585 400	(2 936 600)	28 648 800
	TOTAL, PART XI	**53 585 000**	**(3 636 000)**	**49 949 000**
PART XII.	*Staff assessment*			
32.	Staff assessment	369 080 100	(20 799 500)	348 280 600

Section		*Amount approved by resolution 50/215 A*	*Increase or (decrease)*	*Revised appropriation*
		(United States dollars)		
	TOTAL, PART XII	**369 080 100**	**(20 799 500)**	**348 280 600**
PART XIII.	*International Seabed Authority*			
33.	International Seabed Authority	1 308 200	2 685 500	3 993 700
	TOTAL, PART XIII	**1 308 200**	**2 685 500**	**3 993 700**
	TOTAL, EXPENDITURE SECTIONS	2 712 265 200	(108 984 300)	2 603 280 900
	Less: anticipated reductions to be confirmed by the General Assembly	(103 991 200)	103 991 200	
	GRAND TOTAL	**2 608 274 000**	**(4 993 100)**	**2 603 280 900**

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

B

REVISED INCOME ESTIMATES FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the biennium 1996-1997, the estimates of income of 471,401,700 United States dollars approved by it in its resolution 50/215 B of 23 December 1995 shall be decreased by 23,664,100 dollars, as follows:

Income section	*Amount approved by resolution 50/215 B*	*Increase or (decrease)*	*Revised estimates*
	(United States dollars)		
1. Income from staff assessment	384 306 000	(20 809 400)	363 496 600
TOTAL, INCOME SECTION 1	**384 306 000**	**(20 809 400)**	**363 496 600**
2. General income	86 209 200	(4 189 600)	82 019 600
3. Services to the public	886 500	1 334 900	2 221 400
TOTAL, INCOME SECTIONS 2 AND 3	**87 095 700**	**(2 854 700)**	**84 241 000**
GRAND TOTAL	**471 401 700**	**(23 664 100)**	**447 737 600**

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

C

FINANCING OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1997

The General Assembly

Resolves that for the year 1997:

1. Budget appropriations totalling 1,299,143,900 United States dollars and consisting of 1,304,137,000 dollars, being half of the appropriations initially approved for the biennium 1996-1997 in its resolution 50/215 A of 23 December 1995, less 4,993,100 dollars, being the reduction approved by the Assembly in resolution A above, shall be financed in accordance with regulations 5.1 and 5.2 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations as follows:

(*a*) 50,817,943 dollars, consisting of:

(i) 43,547,850 dollars, being half of the estimated income other than income from staff assessment approved for the biennium 1996-1997 by the Assembly in its resolution 50/215 B of 23 December 1995;

(ii) Less 2,854,700 dollars, being the reduction approved by the Assembly in resolution B above;

(iii) 10,124,793 dollars, being the balance in the surplus account as at 31 December 1995;

(*b*) 1,248,325,957 dollars, being the assessment on Member States in accordance with its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 on the scale of assessments for the years 1996 and 1997;

2. There shall be set off against the assessment on Member States, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the total amount of 183,140,613 dollars, consisting of:

(*a*) 192,153,000 dollars, being half of the estimated staff assessment income approved by the Assembly in its resolution 50/215 B;

(*b*) Less 20,809,400 dollars, being the estimated decrease in income from staff assessment approved by the Assembly in resolution B above;

(*c*) Plus 11,797,013 dollars, being the increase in income from staff assessment for the biennium 1994-1995 compared with the revised estimates approved by the Assembly in its resolution 50/205 B of 23 December 1995.

89th plenary meeting
18 December 1996

VII. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

CONTENTS

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Page*
51/155	Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts	326
51/156	Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives	326
51/157	United Nations Decade of International Law	327
51/158	Electronic treaty database	331
51/159	Action to be taken in 1999 dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law	332
51/160	Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-eighth session	333
51/161	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-ninth session	334
51/162	Model Law on Electronic Commerce adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	336
51/163	Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country	340
51/206	Convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses	341
51/207	Establishment of an international criminal court	342
51/208	Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions	343
51/209	Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	345
51/210	Measures to eliminate international terrorism	346

51/155. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/44 of 8 December 1977, 34/51 of 23 November 1979, 37/116 of 16 December 1982, 39/77 of 13 December 1984, 41/72 of 3 December 1986, 43/161 of 9 December 1988, 45/38 of 28 November 1990, 47/30 of 25 November 1992 and 49/48 of 9 December 1994,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[1] on the status of the Protocols[2] Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949[3] and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts,

Convinced of the continuing value of established humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts and the need to respect and ensure respect for these rules in all circumstances within the scope of the relevant international instruments, pending the earliest possible termination of such conflicts,

Recalling the possibility of making use of the International Fact-Finding Commission in relation to an armed conflict, pursuant to article 90 of Protocol I,

Stressing the need for consolidating the existing body of international humanitarian law through its universal acceptance and the need for wide dissemination and full implementation of such law at the national level,

Mindful of the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in offering protection to the victims of armed conflicts,

Noting with appreciation the continuing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to promote and disseminate knowledge of the two additional Protocols,

Noting that the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was held at Geneva from 3 to 7 December 1995,

1. *Appreciates* the virtually universal acceptance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949[3] and the increasingly wide acceptance of the two additional Protocols of 1977;[2]

2. *Appeals* to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the additional Protocols at the earliest possible date;

3. *Calls upon* all States that are already parties to Protocol I, or those States not parties, on becoming parties to Protocol I, to make the declaration provided for under article 90 of that Protocol;

4. *Calls upon* all States parties to the additional Protocols to ensure their wide dissemination and full implementation;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent endorsed the Final Declaration of the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims,[4] adopted on 1 September 1993, which reaffirms the necessity of making the implementation of international humanitarian law more effective;

6. *Notes* that the Twenty-sixth International Conference also endorsed the recommendations elaborated by an intergovernmental group of experts which aim at translating the Final Declaration into concrete measures, including the recommendation that the depositary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 organize periodic meetings of States parties to these Conventions to consider general problems regarding the application of international humanitarian law;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the status of the additional Protocols based on information received from Member States;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts".

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/156. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

Conscious of the need to develop and strengthen friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Convinced that respect for the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations is a basic prerequisite for the normal conduct of relations among States and for the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Dismayed by the recent acts of violence against diplomatic and consular representatives, as well as against representatives of international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, which have endangered or taken innocent lives and seriously impeded the normal work of such representatives and officials,

Concerned at the failure to respect the inviolability of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives,

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[1] A/51/215 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[3] Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[4] A/48/742, annex.

[5] A/51/257 and Add.1.

Recalling that, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State,

Recalling also that diplomatic and consular premises must not be used in any manner incompatible with the diplomatic or consular functions,

Emphasizing the duty of States to take all appropriate measures as required by international law, including measures of a preventive nature, and to bring offenders to justice,

Welcoming measures already taken by States to this end in conformity with their international obligations,

Convinced that the role of the United Nations, which includes the reporting procedures established under General Assembly resolution 35/168 of 15 December 1980 and further elaborated in later Assembly resolutions, is important in promoting efforts to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Strongly condemns* acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against missions and representatives of international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, and emphasizes that such acts can never be justified;

3. *Urges* States to strictly observe, implement and enforce the principles and rules of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations and, in particular, to ensure, in conformity with their international obligations, the protection, security and safety of the missions, representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above officially present in territories under their jurisdiction, including practical measures to prohibit in their territories illegal activities of persons, groups and organizations that encourage, instigate, organize or engage in the perpetration of acts against the security and safety of such missions, representatives and officials;

4. *Also urges* States to take all necessary measures at the national and international levels to prevent any acts of violence against the missions, representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above and to bring offenders to justice;

5. *Recommends* that States should cooperate closely through, *inter alia*, contacts between the diplomatic and consular missions and the receiving State with regard to practical measures designed to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives and with regard to the exchange of information on the circumstances of all serious violations thereof;

6. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures, in accordance with international law, at the national and international levels to prevent any abuse of diplomatic or consular privileges and immunities, in particular serious abuses, including those involving acts of violence;

7. *Recommends* that States should cooperate closely with the State in whose territory abuses of diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities may have occurred, including by exchanging information and providing assistance to its judicial authorities in order to bring offenders to justice;

8. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the instruments relevant to the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives;

9. *Also calls upon* States, in cases where a dispute arises in connection with a violation of their international obligations concerning the protection of the missions or the security of the representatives and officials mentioned in paragraph 2 above, to make use of the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes, including the good offices of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General, when he deems it appropriate, to offer his good offices to the States directly concerned;

10. *Requests* all States to report to the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 42/154 of 7 December 1987;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue a report on the item, in accordance with paragraph 12 of resolution 42/154, containing also an analytical summary of the reports received under paragraph 10 above, on an annual basis, as well as to proceed with his other tasks pursuant to the same resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives".

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/157. United Nations Decade of International Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989, by which it declared the period 1990-1999 the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Recalling also that the main purposes of the Decade, according to resolution 44/23, should be, *inter alia*:

(*a*) To promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law;

(*b*) To promote means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice;

(*c*) To encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification;

(*d*) To encourage the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law,

Recalling further its resolution 49/50 of 9 December 1994, to which was annexed the programme for the activities for the third term (1995-1996) of the Decade,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report submitted pursuant to resolution 50/44 of 11 December 1995,[6]

Having considered the above-mentioned report,

Recalling that at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly the Sixth Committee established the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law with a view to preparing generally acceptable recommendations on the programme of activities for the Decade,

Noting that at the fifty-first session the Sixth Committee reconvened the Working Group to continue its work in accordance with resolution 50/44 and all previous resolutions on the question,

Having considered the oral report presented by the Chairman of the Working Group to the Sixth Committee,[7]

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Sixth Committee for the elaboration, within the framework of its Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law, of the programme for the activities for the final term (1997-1999) of the Decade, and requests the Working Group to continue its work at the fifty-second session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work;

2. *Also expresses its appreciation* to States and international organizations and institutions that have undertaken activities, including sponsoring conferences on various subjects of international law, in implementation of the programme for the third term (1995-1996) of the Decade;

3. *Adopts* the programme for the activities for the final term (1997-1999) of the Decade contained in the annex to the present resolution;

4. *Recalls*, with appreciation to the Secretary-General, the successful organization of the United Nations Congress on Public International Law, held from 13 to 17 March 1995, which focused on the four main purposes of the Decade, as well as on new challenges and expectations for the twenty-first century, and welcomes the publication of the proceedings of the Congress;

5. *Welcomes* the establishment of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[8] as a new means of settlement of disputes;

6. *Encourages* the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat to continue in its efforts to bring up to date the publication of the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*;

7. *Invites* all States and international organizations and institutions referred to in the programme to undertake the relevant activities outlined therein and to provide information in this respect to the Secretary-General for transmission to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, on the basis of the information mentioned in paragraph 7 above and new information on the activities of the United Nations relevant to the progressive development of international law and its codification, a final report on the implementation of the programme;

9. *Encourages* States to disseminate at the national level, as appropriate, information contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

10. *Appeals* to States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations working in the field of international law and to the private sector to make financial contributions or contributions in kind for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the programme;

11. *Once again requests* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of States and international organizations and institutions working in the field of international law the programme annexed to the present resolution;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the field of international humanitarian law, including with regard to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law".

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

ANNEX

Programme for the activities for the final term (1997-1999) of the United Nations Decade of International Law

I. PROMOTION OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF AND RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

1. The General Assembly, bearing in mind that maintenance of international peace and security is the underlying condition for the success of the implementation of

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[6] A/51/278 and Add.1.

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Sixth Committee*, 48th meeting (A/C.6/51/SR.48), and corrigendum.

[8] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

the programme for the United Nations Decade of International Law, calls upon States to act in accordance with international law, and in particular the Charter of the United Nations, and encourages States and international organizations to promote the acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law.

2. States are invited to consider, if they have not yet done so, becoming parties to existing multilateral treaties, in particular those relevant to the progressive development of international law and its codification. International organizations under whose auspices such treaties are concluded are invited to indicate whether they publish periodic reports on the status of ratifications of and accessions to multilateral treaties and, if they do not, to indicate whether in their view such a process would be useful. Consideration should be given to the question of treaties that have not achieved wider participation or entered into force after a considerable lapse of time and the circumstances causing the situation.

3. States and international organizations are encouraged to provide assistance and technical advice to States, in particular to developing countries, to facilitate their participation in the process of multilateral treaty-making, including their adherence to and implementation of multilateral treaties, in accordance with their national legal systems.

4. States are encouraged to report to the Secretary-General on ways and means provided for in the multilateral treaties to which they are parties, regarding the implementation of such treaties. International organizations are similarly encouraged to report to the Secretary-General on ways and means provided for by the multilateral treaties concluded under their auspices regarding the implementation of such treaties. The Secretary-General is requested to prepare a report on the basis of this information and to submit it to the General Assembly.

5. The General Assembly, recognizing the importance of the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, takes note of the efforts under way to facilitate the implementation of existing international instruments in this field.

II. PROMOTION OF MEANS AND METHODS FOR THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES, INCLUDING RESORT TO AND FULL RESPECT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

6. States, the United Nations system of organizations and regional organizations, including the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, as well as the International Law Association, the Institute of International Law, the Hispano-Luso-American Institute of International Law and other international institutions working in the field of international law, and national societies of international law, are invited to study the means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice, and to present suggestions for the promotion thereof to the Sixth Committee.

7. Noting the establishment of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in October 1996 in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[8] States and other entities referred to in article 20 of annex VI of the Convention are encouraged to consider making use of the Tribunal for the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with article 21 of annex VI of the Convention.

8. Taking into account the suggestions mentioned in paragraph 6 of the present section and with due regard to the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace",[9] the Sixth Committee should consider, where appropriate, on the basis of a report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, or of the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law, the following questions:

(*a*) Strengthening the use of means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes, with particular attention to the role to be played by the United Nations, as well as methods for early identification and prevention of disputes and their containment;

(*b*) Procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes arising in specific areas of international law;

(*c*) Ways and means of encouraging greater recognition of the role of the International Court of Justice and its wider use in the peaceful settlement of disputes;

(*d*) Enhancement of cooperation of regional organizations with the United Nations system of organizations in respect of the peaceful settlement of disputes;

(*e*) Wider use of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

III. ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ITS CODIFICATION

9. International organizations, including the United Nations system of organizations and regional organizations, are invited to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations summary information regarding the programme and results of their work relevant to the progressive development of international law and its codification, including their suggestions for future work in their specialized field, with an indication of the appropriate forum to undertake such work. Similarly, the Secretary-General is requested to prepare a report on the relevant activities of the United Nations, including those of the International Law Commission. Such information should be presented in a final report by the Secretary-General to the Sixth Committee.

10. On the basis of the information mentioned in paragraph 9 above, States are invited to submit suggestions for consideration by the Sixth Committee and, as appropriate, recommendations. In particular, efforts should be made to

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[9] A/47/277-S/24111; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992*, document S/24111.

identify areas of international law that might be ripe for progressive development or codification.

11. The Sixth Committee should study, taking into account General Assembly resolution 684 (VII) of 6 November 1952,[10] its coordinating role with respect to, *inter alia*, the drafting of provisions of a legal nature and the consistent use of legal terminology in international instruments adopted by the General Assembly. States are invited to present proposals in this regard to the Sixth Committee.

12. The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization should continue to study possible measures to strengthen the United Nations system for the maintenance of international peace and security. In that context, the Special Committee should bear in mind the debate within the United Nations, in particular in the General Assembly, on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace".

IV. ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

13. Within the context of considering appropriate activities to mark the final term of the Decade's programme, States, the United Nations system of organizations and regional organizations and institutions referred to in the programme should encourage:

(*a*) The publication of essays on subjects of international law written by legal advisers of States and international organizations, scholars and other legal practitioners providing a useful perspective on international law as viewed from their standpoint;

(*b*) The organization at the national, regional and international level of symposia, conferences, seminars, lectures and meetings on selected topics or themes of international law during the remaining years of the Decade to celebrate the end of it. Topics for consideration could include, without limiting other suggestions, the contribution of the United Nations to international law; more effective means of implementing the rules of international law; merits or otherwise of treaties and other forms of instruments such as resolutions, declarations and so on; future topics for the International Law Commission; and the role of the International Court of Justice in the settlement of disputes and advisory opinions.

14. The Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law should, in the context of the Decade, continue to formulate, as appropriate and in a timely manner, relevant guidelines for the Programme's activities and report to the Sixth Committee on the activities carried out under the Programme in accordance with such guidelines. Special emphasis should be given to supporting academic and professional institutions already carrying out research and education in international law, as well as to encouraging the establishment of such institutions where they might not exist, in particular in the developing countries. States and other public or private bodies are encouraged to contribute to the strengthening of the Programme.

15. States and law faculties of higher educational institutions are encouraged to include international law as a core subject in their curricula. They are also encouraged to introduce courses in international law for students studying law, political science, social sciences and other relevant disciplines; they should study the possibility of introducing topics of international law in the curricula of schools at the primary and secondary levels. They should also consider introducing public international law courses geared towards career training and the establishment of clinical programmes in various areas of international law. Cooperation between institutions at the university level among developing countries, on the one hand, and their cooperation with those of developed countries, on the other, should be encouraged.

16. States should consider convening conferences of experts at the national and regional levels in order to study the question of preparing model curricula and materials for courses in international law, training of teachers in international law, preparation of textbooks on international law and the use of modern technology to facilitate the teaching of and research in international law.

17. States, international organizations and professional and academic institutions should consider making available materials to the United Nations audio-visual library on international law proposed by the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

18. States are encouraged to organize special training in international law for legal professionals, including judges, and personnel of ministries of foreign affairs and other relevant ministries as well as military personnel. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Hague Academy of International Law, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, regional organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross are invited to continue cooperating with States in this respect.

19. In connection with training of military personnel, States are encouraged to foster the teaching and dissemination of the principles governing the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict and should consider the possibility of making use of the guidelines for military manuals and instructions prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross.[11]

20. Cooperation among developing countries, as well as between developed and developing countries, in particular among those persons who are involved in the practice of international law, for exchanging experience and for mutual

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[10] See annex II to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.15).

[11] A/49/323, annex.

assistance in the field of international law, including assistance in providing textbooks and manuals of international law, is encouraged.

21. In order to make better known the practice of international law, States and international and regional organizations should endeavour to publish, if they have not yet done so, summaries, repertories or yearbooks of their practice. They should also endeavour to place this material on computer networks for wider and instant distribution. The Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat is encouraged to continue its efforts in this regard, including through its participation in the Global Legal Information Network project.

22. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Registry of the International Court of Justice, is encouraged to publish, to the extent feasible and in a timely manner, the publication updating the *Summaries of the Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice (1948-1991)*,[12] at present under preparation, in all official languages of the Organization.

23. Other international courts and tribunals, including the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, are invited to disseminate more widely their judgements and advisory opinions and to consider preparing thematic or analytical summaries thereof.

24. International organizations are encouraged to publish treaties concluded under their auspices, if they have not yet done so. Timely publication of the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook* is also encouraged.

V. PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

25. The Sixth Committee, working primarily through its Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law and with the assistance of the Secretariat, will be the coordinating body of the programme for the Decade. The question of the use of an intra-sessional, inter-sessional or existing body to carry out specific activities of the programme may be considered by the General Assembly.

26. States are encouraged to establish, as necessary, national, subregional and regional committees, which may assist in the implementation of the programme for the Decade. Non-governmental organizations are encouraged to promote the purposes of the Decade within their fields of activity, as appropriate.

27. Voluntary contributions from Governments, international organizations and other sources, including the private sector, would be useful and are strongly encouraged in order to implement the programme for the Decade. To that end, the establishment of a trust fund to be administered by the Secretary-General might be considered by the General Assembly.

51/158. Electronic treaty database

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the obligations resulting from Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations and the importance of treaties in the development of international law and the international legal order,

Noting that the recent expansion of the membership of the Organization, combined with an increase in international treaty-making activity, has led to the growth in the volume of work carried out by the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and contributed to the accumulation of unpublished treaties,

Recognizing, consistent with the obligation contained in Article 102 of the Charter, the importance of the expeditious processing, registration and publication of treaties and treaty-related actions,

Welcoming the range of measures already taken by the Treaty Section to expedite the publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series* and to provide electronic access to the publication *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General* through the Internet,

Desirous that all efforts are made to ensure that the Treaty Section develops a comprehensive electronic database containing all treaty depositary and registration information,

Noting the steps taken by the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Informatics established by the Economic and Social Council to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all Member States,

Noting also that the existing and proposed Internet access to United Nations treaty publications is and will be in addition to the hard-copy printed versions of such publications,

1. *Welcomes* the statement of objective of developing a comprehensive electronic database containing all depositary and registration information and disseminating electronically treaties and treaty law-related information from the database, including through on-line access, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of International Law;[13]

2. *Recalls* the request of the Legal Counsel that in order to expedite the registration and publication of treaties all Member States should submit treaty texts in disk or other electronic format in addition to the certified print copy;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to give priority to the implementation of the computerization programme in the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to ensure that all necessary support is provided to expedite the publication of the

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[12] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.V.5.

[13] A/51/278, para. 91.

printed version of the United Nations *Treaty Series* through the prompt provision of the necessary equipment and translation services;

5. *Endorses* the proposed Internet dissemination of the United Nations *Treaty Series*, following the same rules applicable to the printed version of the publication, in addition to the current access to the *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General*, and recognizes that Internet access to treaties and treaty law-related information is particularly valuable in countries where the cost of maintaining complete collections of treaties in bound volume form is relatively high;

6. *Also endorses* the Secretary-General's exploring of the economic and practical feasibility of recovering the costs of providing such Internet access to the United Nations *Treaty Series* and the *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General*, subject to Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and other non-commercial users not being charged a user fee, and presenting his findings to Member States;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of translating the list of titles of treaties appearing in the publication *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General* into the other official languages of the United Nations and disseminating such lists via the Internet, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

8. *Invites* the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, other international organizations and Member States with depositary functions for multilateral treaties to use their best endeavours to provide Internet access to treaties and treaty law-related information as soon as practicable.

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/159. Action to be taken in 1999 dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law

The General Assembly,

Noting that the year 1999 will mark the one-hundredth anniversary of the historic first International Peace Conference, held at The Hague on the initiative of Russia,

Recalling its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989, by which it proclaimed the United Nations Decade of International Law, to begin in 1990 and conclude in 1999, marking the centennial of the first International Peace Conference,

Recognizing that the first and the second International Peace Conference, as well as the League of Nations and the United Nations subsequently, have significantly encouraged the progressive development and codification of international law and thereby contributed to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing also the invaluable contribution of the first International Peace Conference to the settling or resolving of international disputes or situations which can cause the infringement of peace, by its adoption of the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes[14] and the establishment of the Permanent Court of Arbitration,

Recalling that the Final Act of the second International Peace Conference[14] incorporated a proposal to convene a third international peace conference,

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security, *inter alia*, by means of adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace,

Recalling that, according to its resolution 44/23, one of the main purposes of the Decade of International Law is to promote means and methods for the settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice,

Recalling also that, at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee convened the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law with a view to preparing generally acceptable recommendations on the programme of activities for the Decade, and that the Working Group has been reconvened at all subsequent sessions of the General Assembly and was requested at the fiftieth session to continue its work,

Stressing the need for the international community to continue efforts with a view to strengthening international peace and security, achieving full compliance with international law and promoting its progressive development,

Recalling that in its resolution 44/23 it requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and appropriate international bodies, as well as of non-governmental organizations working in the field, on the programme for the Decade and on appropriate action to be taken during the Decade, including the possibility of holding a third international peace conference or other suitable international conference at the end of the Decade,

Noting that the heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at their ninth summit meeting reaffirmed General Assembly resolution 44/23 and the strong support of the Movement for the programme of the United Nations Decade of International Law, including the recommendation of holding a third international peace conference at the conclusion of the Decade on the occasion of the one-hundredth anniversary of the first International Peace Conference,

Noting also the proposal by the Russian Federation for a third international peace conference with a view to considering international law and order in the post-cold-war world at the threshold of the twenty-first century,

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[14] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

Convinced that the United Nations could assist significantly with its expertise and knowledge with the development of such a proposal,

1. *Considers* it desirable to draft a programme of action dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law in 1999;

2. *Invites* the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Netherlands to arrange, as a matter of urgency, a preliminary discussion with other interested Member States on the substantive content of action to be taken in 1999 and to seek, in this respect, the cooperation of the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other relevant organizations;

3. *Calls upon* the competent United Nations organs, programmes and specialized agencies to study the possibilities of providing assistance to that end;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law", a sub-item entitled "Action to be taken in 1999 dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law".

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/160. Report of the International Law Commission on the work *of its forty-eighth session*

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-eighth session,[15]

Emphasizing the importance of furthering the progressive development of international law and its codification as a means of implementing the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[16]

Emphasizing also the role of the International Law Commission in the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Recognizing the desirability of referring legal and drafting questions to the Sixth Committee, including topics that might be submitted to the International Law Commission for closer examination, and of enabling the Sixth Committee and the Commission further to enhance their contribution to the progressive development of international law and its codification,

Recalling the need to keep under review those topics of international law which, given their new or renewed interest for the international community, may be suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law and therefore may be included in the future programme of work of the International Law Commission,

Stressing the usefulness of structuring the debate on the report of the International Law Commission in the Sixth Committee in such a manner that conditions are provided for concentrated attention to each of the main topics dealt with in the report,

Wishing to enhance further the interaction between the Sixth Committee as a body of government representatives and the International Law Commission as a body of independent legal experts, with a view to improving the dialogue between the two organs,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-eighth session;[15]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for the work accomplished at its forty-eighth session, in particular for the completion of the final draft articles on the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind and the provisional draft articles on State responsibility, and draws the attention of the States participating in the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court to the relevance of the draft Code to their work;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Governments to submit, before the end of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, their written comments and observations on action which might be taken in relation to the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind;

4. *Recommends* that, taking into account the comments of Governments, whether in writing or expressed orally in debates in the General Assembly, the International Law Commission should continue its work on the topics in its current programme;

5. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the importance, for the International Law Commission, of having their views on the draft articles on State responsibility adopted on first reading by the Commission, and urges them to submit their comments and observations in writing by 1 January 1998, as requested by the Commission;

6. *Encourages* Governments that may wish to do so to provide, in writing, their comments and observations on the report of the Working Group on International Liability for Injurious Consequences Arising out of Acts not Prohibited by International Law, annexed to the report of the International Law Commission,[17] in order that the Commission may, in the light of the report of the Working Group and such comments

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[15] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 10* and corrigendum (A/51/10 and Corr.1).

[16] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[17] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 10* and corrigendum (A/51/10 and Corr.1), annex I.

and observations as may be made by Governments and those that have been made in the Sixth Committee, consider at its forty-ninth session how to proceed with its work on the topic and make early recommendations thereon;

7. *Invites* States and international organizations, particularly those that are depositaries, to answer promptly the questionnaire prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the topic concerning reservations to treaties;

8. *Notes* the completion of the preliminary study of the topic "State succession and its impact on the nationality of natural and legal persons", requests the International Law Commission to undertake the substantive study of the topic "Nationality in relation to the succession of States" in accordance with the modalities provided for in paragraph 88 of its report, and invites Governments to submit comments on the practical problems raised by the succession of States affecting the nationality of legal persons;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of paragraphs 143 to 244 of the report of the International Law Commission concerning its procedures and working methods;

10. *Takes note* of the comments of the International Law Commission on the question of a split session, as presented in paragraphs 228 to 233 of its report;

11. *Encourages* the International Law Commission, in relation to its internal matters, to take decisions which could contribute to its efficiency and productivity;

12. *Takes note* of the decision of the International Law Commission contained in paragraph 256 of its report on the duration of its next session;

13. *Invites* the International Law Commission further to examine the topics "Diplomatic protection" and "Unilateral acts of States" and to indicate the scope and the content of the topics in the light of the comments and observations made during the debate in the Sixth Committee on the report of the Commission and any written comments that Governments may wish to submit;

14. *Requests* the International Law Commission to continue to pay special attention to indicating in its annual report, for each topic, those specific issues, if any, on which expressions of views by Governments, either in the Sixth Committee or in written form, would be of particular interest in providing effective guidance for the Commission in its further work;

15. *Reaffirms* its previous decisions concerning the role of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and those concerning the summary records and other documentation of the International Law Commission;

16. *Once again expresses the wish* that seminars will continue to be held in conjunction with the sessions of the International Law Commission and that an increasing number of participants from developing countries will be given the opportunity to attend those seminars, appeals to States that can do so to make the voluntary contributions that are urgently needed for the holding of the seminars, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the seminars with adequate services, including interpretation, as required;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward to the International Law Commission, for its attention, the records of the debate on the report of the Commission at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, together with such written statements as delegations may circulate in conjunction with their oral statements, and to prepare and distribute a topical summary of the debate, following established practice;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the International Law Commission through a colloquium on the progressive development and codification of international law, to be held during the consideration in the Sixth Committee of the report of the Commission on the work of its forty-ninth session;

19. *Recommends* that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the fifty-second session of the General Assembly commence on 27 October 1997.

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/161. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-ninth session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it created the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

Reaffirming its conviction that the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law, in reducing or removing legal obstacles to the flow of international trade, especially those affecting the developing countries, would significantly contribute to universal economic cooperation among all States on a basis of equality, equity and common interest and to the elimination of discrimination in international trade and thereby to the well-being of all peoples,

Stressing the value of participation by States at all levels of economic development and with different legal systems in the process of harmonizing and unifying international trade law,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-ninth session,[18]

Mindful of the valuable contribution to be rendered by the Commission within the framework of the United Nations

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[18] Ibid., *Supplement No. 17* (A/51/17).

Decade of International Law, particularly as regards the dissemination of international trade law,

Concerned that activities undertaken by other bodies of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law without coordination with the Commission might lead to undesirable duplication of efforts and would not be in keeping with the aim of promoting efficiency, consistency and coherence in the unification and harmonization of international trade law, as stated in its resolution 37/106 of 16 December 1982,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 50/47,[19]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-ninth session;[18]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the completion and adoption by the Commission of the Model Law on Electronic Commerce;[20]

3. *Commends* the Commission for the finalization of the Notes on Organizing Arbitral Proceedings;[21]

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress made in its work on the subjects of receivables financing and cross-border insolvency;

5. *Welcomes* the decision of the Commission to request the Secretariat to review, with the assistance of experts and in cooperation with other international organizations having expertise in build-operate-transfer arrangements, issues on which legislative guidance might be useful, and to commence the preparation of a legislative guide on build-operate-transfer projects;[22]

6. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, to coordinate legal activities in this field and, in this connection:

(*a*) Calls upon all bodies of the United Nations system and invites other international organizations to bear in mind the mandate of the Commission and the need to avoid duplication of effort and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the unification and harmonization of international trade law;

(*b*) Recommends that the Commission, through its secretariat, continue to maintain close cooperation with the other international organs and organizations, including regional organizations as well as other bodies such as the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, which are active in the field of international trade law and other related areas;

7. *Also reaffirms* the importance, in particular for developing countries, of the work of the Commission concerned with training and technical assistance in the field of international trade law, such as assistance in the preparation of national legislation based on legal texts of the Commission;

8. *Expresses the desirability* for increased efforts by the Commission, in sponsoring seminars and symposia, to provide such training and technical assistance, and in this connection:

(*a*) Expresses its appreciation to the Commission for organizing seminars and briefing missions in Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakstan, New Zealand, Paraguay, Slovenia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates;

(*b*) Expresses its appreciation to the Governments whose contributions made it possible for the seminars and briefing missions to take place, and appeals to Governments, the relevant United Nations organs, organizations and institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law trust fund for symposia and, where appropriate, to the financing of special projects, and otherwise to assist the secretariat of the Commission in financing and organizing seminars and symposia, in particular in developing countries, and in the award of fellowships to candidates from developing countries to enable them to participate in such seminars and symposia;

9. *Appeals* to the United Nations Development Programme and other bodies responsible for development assistance, such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as to Governments in their bilateral aid programmes, to support the training and technical assistance programme of the Commission and to cooperate and coordinate their activities with those of the Commission;

10. *Appeals* to Governments, the relevant United Nations organs, organizations and institutions and individuals, in order to ensure full participation by all Member States in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund for travel assistance to developing countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General;

11. *Decides* to include the trust funds for symposia and travel assistance in the list of funds and programmes that are dealt with at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

12. *Also decides*, in order to ensure full participation by all Member States in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups, to continue its consideration in the competent Main Committee during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly of granting travel assistance to the least developed

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[19] A/51/382.

[20] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/51/17), annex I; see also resolution 51/162, annex.

[21] Ibid., *Supplement No. 17* (A/51/17), chap. II.

[22] Ibid., chap. IV, para. 229.

countries that are members of the Commission, at their request and in consultation with the Secretary-General;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the effective implementation of the programmes of the Commission;

14. *Stresses* the importance of bringing into effect the conventions emanating from the work of the Commission for the global unification and harmonization of international trade law, and to this end urges States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to those conventions.

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/162. Model Law on Electronic Commerce adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it created the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

Noting that an increasing number of transactions in international trade are carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of communication, commonly referred to as "electronic commerce", which involve the use of alternatives to paper-based methods of communication and storage of information,

Recalling the recommendation on the legal value of computer records adopted by the Commission at its eighteenth session, in 1985,[23] and paragraph 5 (*b*) of General Assembly resolution 40/71 of 11 December 1985, in which the Assembly called upon Governments and international organizations to take action, where appropriate, in conformity with the recommendation of the Commission,[23] so as to ensure legal security in the context of the widest possible use of automated data processing in international trade,

Convinced that the establishment of a model law facilitating the use of electronic commerce that is acceptable to States with different legal, social and economic systems could contribute significantly to the development of harmonious international economic relations,

Noting that the Model Law on Electronic Commerce was adopted by the Commission at its twenty-ninth session after consideration of the observations of Governments and interested organizations,

Believing that the adoption of the Model Law on Electronic Commerce by the Commission will assist all States significantly in enhancing their legislation governing the use of alternatives to paper-based methods of communication and storage of information and in formulating such legislation where none currently exists,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for completing and adopting the Model Law on Electronic Commerce contained in the annex to the present resolution and for preparing the Guide to Enactment of the Model Law;

2. *Recommends* that all States give favourable consideration to the Model Law when they enact or revise their laws, in view of the need for uniformity of the law applicable to alternatives to paper-based methods of communication and storage of information;

3. *Recommends also* that all efforts be made to ensure that the Model Law, together with the Guide, become generally known and available.

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

ANNEX

Model Law on Electronic Commerce of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

PART ONE. ELECTRONIC COMMERCE IN GENERAL

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Sphere of application[24]

This Law[25] applies to any kind of information in the form of a data message used in the context[26] of commercial [27] activities.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Law:

(*a*) "Data message" means information generated, sent, received or stored by electronic, optical or similar means including, but not limited to, electronic data interchange (EDI), electronic mail, telegram, telex or telecopy;

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[23] Ibid., *Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/40/17), chap. VI, sect. B.

[24] The Commission suggests the following text for States that might wish to limit the applicability of this Law to international data messages:

> "This Law applies to a data message as defined in paragraph 1 of article 2 where the data message relates to international commerce."

[25] This Law does not override any rule of law intended for the protection of consumers.

[26] The Commission suggests the following text for States that might wish to extend the applicability of this Law:

> "This Law applies to any kind of information in the form of a data message, except in the following situations: [...]."

[27] The term "commercial" should be given a wide interpretation so as to cover matters arising from all relationships of a commercial nature, whether contractual or not. Relationships of a commercial nature include, but are not limited to, the following transactions: any trade transaction for the supply or exchange of goods or services; distribution agreement; commercial representation or agency; factoring; leasing; construction of works; consulting; engineering; licensing; investment; financing; banking; insurance; exploitation agreement or concession; joint venture and other forms of industrial or business cooperation; carriage of goods or passengers by air, sea, rail or road.

(*b*) "Electronic data interchange (EDI)" means the electronic transfer from computer to computer of information using an agreed standard to structure the information;

(*c*) "Originator" of a data message means a person by whom, or on whose behalf, the data message purports to have been sent or generated prior to storage, if any, but it does not include a person acting as an intermediary with respect to that data message;

(*d*) "Addressee" of a data message means a person who is intended by the originator to receive the data message, but does not include a person acting as an intermediary with respect to that data message;

(*e*) "Intermediary", with respect to a particular data message, means a person who, on behalf of another person, sends, receives or stores that data message or provides other services with respect to that data message;

(*f*) "Information system" means a system for generating, sending, receiving, storing or otherwise processing data messages.

Article 3

Interpretation

1. In the interpretation of this Law, regard is to be had to its international origin and to the need to promote uniformity in its application and the observance of good faith.

2. Questions concerning matters governed by this Law that are not expressly settled in it are to be settled in conformity with the general principles on which this Law is based.

Article 4

Variation by agreement

1. As between parties involved in generating, sending, receiving, storing or otherwise processing data messages, and except as otherwise provided, the provisions of chapter III may be varied by agreement.

2. Paragraph 1 does not affect any right that may exist to modify by agreement any rule of law referred to in chapter II.

CHAPTER II. APPLICATION OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS TO DATA MESSAGES

Article 5

Legal recognition of data messages

Information shall not be denied legal effect, validity or enforceability solely on the grounds that it is in the form of a data message.

Article 6

Writing

1. Where the law requires information to be in writing, that requirement is met by a data message if the information contained therein is accessible so as to be usable for subsequent reference.

2. Paragraph 1 applies whether the requirement therein is in the form of an obligation or whether the law simply provides consequences for the information not being in writing.

3. The provisions of this article do not apply to the following: [...].

Article 7

Signature

1. Where the law requires a signature of a person, that requirement is met in relation to a data message if:

(*a*) A method is used to identify that person and to indicate that person's approval of the information contained in the data message; and

(*b*) That method is as reliable as was appropriate for the purpose for which the data message was generated or communicated, in the light of all the circumstances, including any relevant agreement.

2. Paragraph 1 applies whether the requirement therein is in the form of an obligation or whether the law simply provides consequences for the absence of a signature.

3. The provisions of this article do not apply to the following: [...].

Article 8

Original

1. Where the law requires information to be presented or retained in its original form, that requirement is met by a data message if:

(*a*) There exists a reliable assurance as to the integrity of the information from the time when it was first generated in its final form, as a data message or otherwise; and

(*b*) Where it is required that information be presented, that information is capable of being displayed to the person to whom it is to be presented.

2. Paragraph 1 applies whether the requirement therein is in the form of an obligation or whether the law simply provides consequences for the information not being presented or retained in its original form.

3. For the purposes of subparagraph (*a*) of paragraph 1:

(*a*) The criteria for assessing integrity shall be whether the information has remained complete and unaltered, apart from the addition of any endorsement and any change which arises in the normal course of communication, storage and display; and

(*b*) The standard of reliability required shall be assessed in the light of the purpose for which the information was generated and in the light of all the relevant circumstances.

4. The provisions of this article do not apply to the following: [...].

Article 9

Admissibility and evidential weight of data messages

1. In any legal proceedings, nothing in the application of the rules of evidence shall apply so as to deny the admissibility of a data message in evidence:

(*a*) On the sole ground that it is a data message; or

(*b*) If it is the best evidence that the person adducing it could reasonably be expected to obtain, on the grounds that it is not in its original form.

2. Information in the form of a data message shall be given due evidential weight. In assessing the evidential weight of a data message, regard shall be had to the reliability of the manner in which the data message was generated, stored or communicated, to the reliability of the manner in which the integrity of the information was maintained, to the manner in which its originator was identified, and to any other relevant factor.

Article 10

Retention of data messages

1. Where the law requires that certain documents, records or information be retained, that requirement is met by retaining data messages, provided that the following conditions are satisfied:

(*a*) The information contained therein is accessible so as to be usable for subsequent reference; and

(*b*) The data message is retained in the format in which it was generated, sent or received, or in a format which can be demonstrated to represent accurately the information generated, sent or received; and

(*c*) Such information, if any, is retained as enables the identification of the origin and destination of a data message and the date and time when it was sent or received.

2. An obligation to retain documents, records or information in accordance with paragraph 1 does not extend to any information the sole purpose of which is to enable the message to be sent or received.

3. A person may satisfy the requirement referred to in paragraph 1 by using the services of any other person, provided that the conditions set forth in subparagraphs (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) of paragraph 1 are met.

CHAPTER III. COMMUNICATION OF DATA MESSAGES

Article 11

Formation and validity of contracts

1. In the context of contract formation, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, an offer and the acceptance of an offer may be expressed by means of data messages. Where a data message is used in the formation of a contract, that contract shall not be denied validity or enforceability on the sole ground that a data message was used for that purpose.

2. The provisions of this article do not apply to the following: [...].

Article 12

Recognition by parties of data messages

1. As between the originator and the addressee of a data message, a declaration of will or other statement shall not be denied legal effect, validity or enforceability solely on the grounds that it is in the form of a data message.

2. The provisions of this article do not apply to the following: [...].

Article 13

Attribution of data messages

1. A data message is that of the originator if it was sent by the originator itself.

2. As between the originator and the addressee, a data message is deemed to be that of the originator if it was sent:

(*a*) By a person who had the authority to act on behalf of the originator in respect of that data message; or

(*b*) By an information system programmed by or on behalf of the originator to operate automatically.

3. As between the originator and the addressee, an addressee is entitled to regard a data message as being that of the originator, and to act on that assumption, if:

(*a*) In order to ascertain whether the data message was that of the originator, the addressee properly applied a procedure previously agreed to by the originator for that purpose; or

(*b*) The data message as received by the addressee resulted from the actions of a person whose relationship with the originator or with any agent of the originator enabled that person to gain access to a method used by the originator to identify data messages as its own.

4. Paragraph 3 does not apply:

(*a*) As of the time when the addressee has both received notice from the originator that the data message is not that of the originator and has had reasonable time to act accordingly; or

(*b*) In a case within paragraph 3 (*b*), at any time when the addressee knew or should have known, had it exercised reasonable care or used any agreed procedure, that the data message was not that of the originator.

5. Where a data message is that of the originator or is deemed to be that of the originator, or the addressee is entitled to act on that assumption, then, as between the originator and

the addressee, the addressee is entitled to regard the data message as received as being what the originator intended to send, and to act on that assumption. The addressee is not so entitled when it knew or should have known, had it exercised reasonable care or used any agreed procedure, that the transmission resulted in any error in the data message as received.

6. The addressee is entitled to regard each data message received as a separate data message and to act on that assumption, except to the extent that it duplicates another data message and the addressee knew or should have known, had it exercised reasonable care or used any agreed procedure, that the data message was a duplicate.

Article 14

Acknowledgement of receipt

1. Paragraphs 2 to 4 of this article apply where, on or before sending a data message, or by means of that data message, the originator has requested or has agreed with the addressee that receipt of the data message be acknowledged.

2. Where the originator has not agreed with the addressee that the acknowledgement be given in a particular form or by a particular method, an acknowledgement may be given by:

(*a*) Any communication by the addressee, automated or otherwise; or

(*b*) Any conduct of the addressee,

sufficient to indicate to the originator that the data message has been received.

3. Where the originator has stated that the data message is conditional on receipt of the acknowledgement, the data message is treated as though it has never been sent, until the acknowledgement is received.

4. Where the originator has not stated that the data message is conditional on receipt of the acknowledgement, and the acknowledgement has not been received by the originator within the time specified or agreed or, if no time has been specified or agreed, within a reasonable time the originator:

(*a*) May give notice to the addressee stating that no acknowledgement has been received and specifying a reasonable time by which the acknowledgement must be received; and

(*b*) If the acknowledgement is not received within the time specified in subparagraph (*a*), may, upon notice to the addressee, treat the data message as though it had never been sent, or exercise any other rights it may have.

5. Where the originator receives the addressee's acknowledgement of receipt, it is presumed that the related data message was received by the addressee. That presumption does not imply that the data message corresponds to the message received.

6. Where the received acknowledgement states that the related data message met technical requirements, either agreed upon or set forth in applicable standards, it is presumed that those requirements have been met.

7. Except insofar as it relates to the sending or receipt of the data message, this article is not intended to deal with the legal consequences that may flow either from that data message or from the acknowledgement of its receipt.

Article 15

Time and place of dispatch and receipt of data message

1. Unless otherwise agreed between the originator and the addressee, the dispatch of a data message occurs when it enters an information system outside the control of the originator or of the person who sent the data message on behalf of the originator.

2. Unless otherwise agreed between the originator and the addressee, the time of receipt of a data message is determined as follows:

(*a*) If the addressee has designated an information system for the purpose of receiving data messages, receipt occurs:

(i) At the time when the data message enters the designated information system; or

(ii) If the data message is sent to an information system of the addressee that is not the designated information system, at the time when the data message is retrieved by the addressee;

(*b*) If the addressee has not designated an information system, receipt occurs when the data message enters an information system of the addressee.

3. Paragraph 2 applies notwithstanding the fact that the place where the information system is located may be different from the place where the data message is deemed to be received under paragraph 4.

4. Unless otherwise agreed between the originator and the addressee, a data message is deemed to be dispatched at the place where the originator has its place of business, and is deemed to be received at the place where the addressee has its place of business. For the purposes of this paragraph:

(*a*) If the originator or the addressee has more than one place of business, the place of business is that which has the closest relationship to the underlying transaction or, where there is no underlying transaction, the principal place of business;

(*b*) If the originator or the addressee does not have a place of business, reference is to be made to its habitual residence.

5. The provisions of this article do not apply to the following: [...].

PART TWO. ELECTRONIC COMMERCE IN SPECIFIC AREAS

CHAPTER I. CARRIAGE OF GOODS

Article 16

Actions related to contracts of carriage of goods

Without derogating from the provisions of part one of this Law, this chapter applies to any action in connection with, or in pursuance of, a contract of carriage of goods, including but not limited to:

(*a*) (i) Furnishing the marks, number, quantity or weight of goods;

(ii) Stating or declaring the nature or value of goods;

(iii) Issuing a receipt for goods;

(iv) Confirming that goods have been loaded;

(*b*) (i) Notifying a person of terms and conditions of the contract;

(ii) Giving instructions to a carrier;

(*c*) (i) Claiming delivery of goods;

(ii) Authorizing release of goods;

(iii) Giving notice of loss of, or damage to, goods;

(*d*) Giving any other notice or statement in connection with the performance of the contract;

(*e*) Undertaking to deliver goods to a named person or a person authorized to claim delivery;

(*f*) Granting, acquiring, renouncing, surrendering, transferring or negotiating rights in goods;

(*g*) Acquiring or transferring rights and obligations under the contract.

Article 17

Transport documents

1. Subject to paragraph 3, where the law requires that any action referred to in article 16 be carried out in writing or by using a paper document, that requirement is met if the action is carried out by using one or more data messages.

2. Paragraph 1 applies whether the requirement therein is in the form of an obligation or whether the law simply provides consequences for failing either to carry out the action in writing or to use a paper document.

3. If a right is to be granted to, or an obligation is to be acquired by, one person and no other person, and if the law requires that, in order to effect this, the right or obligation must be conveyed to that person by the transfer, or use of, a paper document, that requirement is met if the right or obligation is conveyed by using one or more data messages, provided that a reliable method is used to render such data message or messages unique.

4. For the purposes of paragraph 3, the standard of reliability required shall be assessed in the light of the purpose for which the right or obligation was conveyed and in the light of all the circumstances, including any relevant agreement.

5. Where one or more data messages are used to effect any action in subparagraphs (*f*) and (*g*) of article 16, no paper document used to effect any such action is valid unless the use of data messages has been terminated and replaced by the use of paper documents. A paper document issued in these circumstances shall contain a statement of such termination. The replacement of data messages by paper documents shall not affect the rights or obligations of the parties involved.

6. If a rule of law is compulsorily applicable to a contract of carriage of goods which is in, or is evidenced by, a paper document, that rule shall not be inapplicable to such a contract of carriage of goods that is evidenced by one or more data messages by reason of the fact that the contract is evidenced by such data message or messages instead of by a paper document.

7. The provisions of this article do not apply to the following: [...].

51/163. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country,[28]

Recalling Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[29] and the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations,[30] and the responsibilities of the host country,

Recognizing that effective measures should continue to be taken by the competent authorities of the host country, in particular to prevent any acts violating the security of missions and the safety of their personnel,

Noting the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding that has guided the deliberations of the Committee on issues affecting the United Nations community and the host country,

Welcoming the increased interest shown by Member States in participating in the work of the Committee,

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[28] A/51/26; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 26.*

[29] Resolution 22 A (I).

[30] See resolution 169 (II).

1. *Endorses* the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 65 of its report;[28]

2. *Considers* that the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations is in the interests of the United Nations and all Member States, and requests the host country to continue to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of missions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the host country, and hopes that the concerns raised at the meetings of the Committee will continue to be resolved in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Committee which have contributed to a decrease in the amount of diplomatic indebtedness, stresses that existing indebtedness continues to be a matter of significant concern to the United Nations and that non-payment of just debts tarnishes the image of the Organization itself, and reaffirms that non-compliance with contractual obligations cannot be condoned or justified;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Committee aimed at identifying affordable health care programmes for the diplomatic community;

6. *Once again urges* the host country to consider lifting travel controls with regard to certain missions and to staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities, and in this regard notes the positions of the affected States, the Secretary-General and the host country;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the steps taken by the host country at John F. Kennedy International Airport with regard to special passages for members of the United Nations community, and urges the host country to continue to take appropriate action in this regard to ensure application of those procedures;

8. *Calls upon* the host country to review measures and procedures relating to the parking of diplomatic vehicles, with a view to responding to the growing needs of the diplomatic community, and to consult with the Committee on these issues;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged in all aspects of the relations of the United Nations with the host country;

10. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".

85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996

51/206. Convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind Article 13, paragraph 1 (*a*), of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its resolution 49/52 of 9 December 1994, by which it decided that the Sixth Committee should convene, at the beginning of the fifty-first session, as a working group of the whole to elaborate a framework convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses on the basis of the draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission,

Noting that some progress was achieved in the elaboration of the convention, but that the Working Group of the Whole will need more time to complete its mandate,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group of the Whole;[31]

2. *Decides* to convene a second session of the Working Group of the Whole, for a period of two weeks from 24 March to 4 April 1997, to elaborate a framework convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses;

3. *Also decides* that on the completion of its mandate the Working Group of the Whole shall report directly to the General Assembly;

4. *Further decides* that the provisions of paragraph 5 of resolution 49/52 shall continue to apply and that the methods of work and procedures outlined in the annex to the present resolution shall be followed.

88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

ANNEX

Methods of work and procedures

1. The Working Group of the Whole shall continue its work building on the work already carried out by the Drafting Committee and the Working Group as reflected in their reports,[32] including the oral report of the President of the Drafting Committee.[33]

2. The Working Group of the Whole shall maintain its Drafting Committee which shall consider the provisions of the draft articles prepared by the International Law Commission that it was unable to consider in its previous meetings, as well as the draft preamble and the set of final clauses.

3. Other issues arising from the reports referred to in paragraph 1 of the present annex, including those between

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[31] A/C.6/51/L.3.

[32] A/C.6/51/NUW/WG/L.1 and Corr.1 and 2, Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.1, Add.3 and Corr.1 and Add.4 and A/C.6/51/L.3.

[33] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Sixth Committee*, 24th meeting (A/C.6/51/SR.24), and corrigendum.

brackets and with footnotes, shall be discussed in the Working Group of the Whole. The Working Group of the Whole may decide to refer to the Drafting Committee aspects of drafting related to those issues.

4. The Working Group of the Whole shall endeavour to adopt all texts by general agreement. Failing such an agreement within a reasonable period of time, it will take its decisions in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

51/207. Establishment of an international criminal court

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/33 of 25 November 1992 and 48/31 of 9 December 1993,

Recalling also that the International Law Commission adopted at its forty-sixth session a draft statute for an international criminal court[34] and decided to recommend that an international conference of plenipotentiaries be convened to study the draft statute and to conclude a convention on the establishment of an international criminal court,[35]

Recalling further its resolution 49/53 of 9 December 1994, in which it decided to establish an ad hoc committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies, to review the major substantive and administrative issues arising out of the draft statute prepared by the International Law Commission and, in the light of that review, to consider arrangements for the convening of an international conference of plenipotentiaries,

Recalling its resolution 50/46 of 11 December 1995, in which it decided, in the light of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court,[36] to establish a preparatory committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to discuss further the major substantive and administrative issues arising out of the draft statute prepared by the International Law Commission and, taking into account the different views expressed during the meetings, to draft texts, with a view to preparing a widely acceptable consolidated text of a convention for an international criminal court as a next step towards consideration by a conference of plenipotentiaries, and also decided that the work of the Preparatory Committee should be based on the draft statute prepared by the International Law Commission and should take into account the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and the written comments[37] submitted by States to the Secretary-General on the draft statute for an international criminal court pursuant to paragraph 4 cf General Assembly resolution 49/53 and, as appropriate, contributions of relevant organizations,

Noting that the Preparatory Committee continued the discussion of the major substantive and administrative issues arising out of the draft statute and initiated consideration of draft texts, with a view to preparing a widely acceptable consolidated text of a convention for an international criminal court,

Noting also that major substantive and administrative issues remain to be resolved,

Noting further that the Preparatory Committee, in the light of the progress made and deeply aware of the commitment of the international community to the establishment of an international criminal court, recommended that the General Assembly reaffirm the mandate of the Preparatory Committee and give further directions to it,

Recalling that in its resolution 50/46 it resolved to decide, in the light of the report of the Preparatory Committee, on the convening of an international conference of plenipotentiaries to finalize and adopt a convention on the establishment of an international criminal court, including on the timing and duration of the conference,

Noting that the Preparatory Committee, recognizing that this is a matter for the General Assembly, and on the basis of its scheme of work, considered that it was realistic to regard the holding of a diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries in 1998 as feasible,

Aware of the necessity to maintain some flexibility in the organization of future work in order to ensure the success of the conference of plenipotentiaries,

Expressing deep appreciation for the renewed offer of the Government of Italy to host a conference on the establishment of an international criminal court in June 1998,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court,[38] including the recommendations contained therein, and expresses its appreciation to the Preparatory Committee for the useful work done and the progress made in fulfilling its mandate;

2. *Takes note also* of the various views of Governments expressed during the consideration of the report of the Preparatory Committee in the Sixth Committee during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly;

3. *Decides* to reaffirm the mandate of the Preparatory Committee, and directs it to proceed in accordance with paragraph 368 of its report;[39]

4. *Decides also* that the Preparatory Committee shall meet from 11 to 21 February, 4 to 15 August and 1 to 12 December 1997, and from 16 March to 3 April 1998, in order to complete the drafting of a widely acceptable consolidated text of a convention, to be submitted to the diplomatic

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[34] Ibid., *Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/49/10), para. 91.

[35] Ibid., para. 90.

[36] Ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 22* (A/50/22).

[37] See A/AC.244/1 and Add.1-4.

[38] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 22* (A/51/22), vols. I and II.

[39] Ibid., vol. I.

conference of plenipotentiaries, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the Preparatory Committee with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work;

5. *Decides further* that a diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries shall be held in 1998, with a view to finalizing and adopting a convention on the establishment of an international criminal court;

6. *Urges* participation in the Preparatory Committee by the largest number of States so as to promote universal support for an international criminal court;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a special fund for the participation of the least developed countries in the work of the Preparatory Committee and in the diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries, and calls upon States to contribute voluntarily to that special fund;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of an international criminal court" in order to have the necessary arrangements made for the diplomatic conference of plenipotentiaries to be held in 1998, unless the General Assembly decides otherwise in view of relevant circumstances.

88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/208. Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

The General Assembly,

Concerned about the special economic problems confronting certain States arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures taken by the Security Council against other States, and taking into account the obligation of Members of the United Nations under Article 49 of the Charter of the United Nations to join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Security Council,

Recalling the right of third States confronted with special economic problems of that nature to consult the Security Council with regard to a solution of those problems, in accordance with Article 50 of the Charter,

Recognizing the desirability of the consideration of further appropriate procedures for consultations to deal in a more effective manner with the problems referred to in Article 50 of the Charter,

Recalling:

(*a*) The report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace",[40] in particular paragraph 41 thereof;

(*b*) Its resolution 47/120 A of 18 December 1992, entitled "An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters", and its resolution 47/120 B of 20 September 1993, entitled "An Agenda for Peace", in particular section IV thereof entitled "Special economic problems arising from the implementation of preventive or enforcement measures";

(*c*) The position paper of the Secretary-General entitled "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace";[41]

(*d*) The statement by the President of the Security Council of 22 February 1995;[42]

(*e*) The report of the Secretary-General[43] prepared pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council[44] regarding the question of special economic problems of States as a result of sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter;

(*f*) The reports of the Secretary-General on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro);[45]

(*g*) The 1994,[46] 1995[47] and 1996[48] reports of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization containing sections on the consideration by the Committee of the proposals submitted on the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter;

(*h*) The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter,[49]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/51 of 11 December 1995,[50]

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[40] A/47/277-S/24111; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992*, document S/24111.

[41] A/50/60-S/1995/1; see *Official Records of the Security Council Fiftieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1995*, document S/1995/1.

[42] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1995*, document S/PRST/1995/9.

[43] A/48/573-S/26705; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26705.

[44] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1992*, document S/25036.

[45] A/49/356, A/50/423 and A/51/356.

[46] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/49/33).

[47] Ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/50/33).

[48] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/51/33).

[49] A/50/361.

[50] A/51/317.

Recalling that the question of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions has been addressed recently in several forums, including the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs and the Security Council,

Recalling also the measures taken by the Security Council in accordance with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 16 December 1994[51] that as part of the Council's effort to improve the flow of information and the exchange of ideas between members of the Council and other States Members of the United Nations, there should be increased recourse to open meetings, in particular at an early stage in its consideration of a subject,

Stressing that in the formulation of sanctions regimes, due account should be taken of the potential effects of sanctions on third States,

Stressing also, in this context, the powers of the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter and the Council's primary responsibility under Article 24 of the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security in order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations,

Recalling that, under Article 31 of the Charter, any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council may participate, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council whenever the latter considers that the interests of that Member are specially affected,

Recognizing that the imposition of sanctions under Chapter VII has been causing special economic problems in third States,

Recognizing also that assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions would further contribute to an effective and comprehensive approach by the international community to sanctions imposed by the Security Council,

Recognizing further that the international community at large and, in particular, international institutions involved in providing economic and financial assistance should continue to take into account and address in a more effective manner the special economic problems of affected third States arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures taken by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter, in view of their magnitude and of the adverse impact on the economy of those States,

Recalling the provisions of resolution 50/51,

1. *Underlines* the importance of consultations under Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations, as early as possible, with third States which are or may be confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter and of early and regular assessments, as appropriate, of their impact on such States;

2. *Invites* the Security Council to consider the establishment of further mechanisms or procedures, as appropriate, for such consultations with regard to a solution of those problems, including appropriate ways and means for increasing the effectiveness of its working methods and procedures applied in the consideration of the requests by the affected countries for assistance, in the context of Article 50 of the Charter;

3. *Welcomes* the further measures taken by the Security Council since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/51 and aimed at increasing the effectiveness and transparency of the sanctions committees, and strongly recommends that the Council continue its efforts further to enhance the functioning of those committees, to streamline their working procedures and to facilitate access to them by representatives of States which find themselves confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of sanctions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the competent units within the Secretariat that he designated to carry out the functions stipulated in paragraph 3 of resolution 50/51 develop the capacity and modalities for providing better information and early assessments for the Security Council and its organs, at their request, about actual or potential effects of sanctions on third States which invoke Article 50 of the Charter; such assessments should, as appropriate, identify specific problems and needs of those States and suggest specific ways and means for their alleviation to be included in the recommendations of the Council and appeals by the Secretary-General to the donor community for assistance to the adversely affected States;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue, on the basis of the work already done, efforts with a view to developing a possible methodology for assessing the adverse consequences actually incurred by third States as a result of preventive or enforcement measures, and to utilize for this purpose all the expertise available throughout the United Nations system, including that of the international financial and trade institutions; that methodology, upon appropriate approval, should be made available to interested States which may wish to use it in preparing the data to be annexed to their applications under Article 50, as well as to the United Nations system, the international financial institutions and the donor community for use in considering requests for assistance;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue, on a regular basis, to collate and coordinate information about international assistance available to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions and to initiate action to explore innovative and practical measures of assistance to the affected third States, *inter alia*, through cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations inside and outside the United Nations system;

7. *Reaffirms* the important role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the

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[51] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1994*, document S/PRST/1994/81.

Committee for Programme and Coordination in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance efforts by the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council and, as appropriate, in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States;

8. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other international organizations, regional organizations and Member States to continue to address more specifically and directly, where appropriate, special economic problems of third States affected by sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter and, for this purpose, to consider improving procedures for consultations to maintain a constructive dialogue with such States, including through regular and frequent meetings as well as, where appropriate, special meetings between the affected third States and the donor community, with the participation of United Nations agencies and other international organizations;

9. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, at its session in 1997, to continue to consider on a priority basis the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter, taking into consideration all the related reports of the Secretary-General, the proposals submitted on this subject, the debate on this question which took place in the Sixth Committee at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly and the debate in the sub-group on sanctions of the Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Peace during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, and also the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/209. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3499 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, by which it established the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and its relevant resolutions adopted at subsequent sessions,

Recalling also its resolution 47/233 of 17 August 1993 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

Recalling further its resolution 47/62 of 11 December 1992 on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind the provisions of its resolution 50/55 of 11 December 1995,

Conscious of the ongoing discussion in the open-ended working groups of the General Assembly dealing with the various aspects of the revitalization, strengthening and reform of the work of the United Nations,

Taking note of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council[52] and the report of the Open-ended High-level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System,[53]

Bearing in mind the reports of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh,[54] thirty-ninth,[55] fortieth,[56] forty-first,[57] forty-second,[58] forty-third,[59] forty-fourth,[60] forty-fifth,[61] forty-sixth,[62] forty-seventh,[63] forty-eighth,[64] forty-ninth,[65] fiftieth[66] and fifty-first[67] sessions, as well as the views and comments expressed on them by Member States,

Recalling the elements relevant to the work of the Special Committee contained in its resolution 47/120 B of 20 September 1993,

Recalling also the provisions of its resolution 50/51 of 11 December 1995 on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with resolution 50/51,[68]

Mindful of the desirability for the Special Committee to carry out further work in the fields of the maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes between States,

Recalling its resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995,

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[52] A/50/47 and Corr.1 and Add.1; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 47*.

[53] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 24* (A/50/24).

[54] Ibid., *Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/37/1).

[55] Ibid., *Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/39/1).

[56] Ibid., *Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/40/1).

[57] Ibid., *Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/41/1).

[58] Ibid., *Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/42/1).

[59] Ibid., *Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/43/1).

[60] Ibid., *Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/44/1).

[61] Ibid., *Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/45/1).

[62] Ibid., *Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/46/1).

[63] Ibid., *Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/47/1).

[64] Ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/48/1).

[65] Ibid., *Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/49/1).

[66] Ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/50/1).

[67] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/51/1).

[68] A/51/317.

Having considered the report of the Special Committee on the work of its session held in 1996,[69]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization;[69]

2. *Decides* that the Special Committee will hold its next session from 27 January to 7 February 1997;

3. *Requests* the Special Committee, at its session in 1997, in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 50/52:

(*a*) To accord appropriate time for the consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations and, in this context, to consider other proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security already submitted or which may be submitted to the Special Committee at its session in 1997, including the revised proposal on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security,[70] the revised working paper on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness,[71] and the working paper on the draft declaration on the basic principles and criteria for the work of the United Nations peacekeeping missions and mechanisms for the prevention and settlement of crises and conflicts;[72]

(*b*) To continue to consider on a priority basis the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter, taking into consideration the reports of the Secretary-General,[73] the proposals submitted on this subject, the debate on this question which took place in the Sixth Committee at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly and the debate in the sub-group on sanctions of the Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Peace during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, and also the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 50/51 and 51/208;

(*c*) To continue its work on the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States and, in this context, to continue its consideration of proposals relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including the proposal on the establishment of a dispute settlement service offering or responding with its services early in disputes and those proposals relating to the enhancement of the role of the International Court of Justice;

(*d*) To continue to consider proposals concerning the Trusteeship Council in the light of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with resolution 50/55[74] and the views expressed by the States on this subject during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed and the practical suggestions made during the debate held within the framework of the Sixth Committee,[75] to expedite the preparation and publication of the supplements to the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and to submit a progress report on the matter to the General Assembly before its fifty-second session;

5. *Invites* the Special Committee at its session in 1997 to continue to identify new subjects for consideration in its future work with a view to contributing to the revitalization of the work of the United Nations, to discuss how to offer its assistance to the working groups of the General Assembly in this field and, in this regard, to consider ways and means of improving coordination between the Special Committee and other working groups dealing with the reform of the Organization, including the role of the Chairperson of the Special Committee for this purpose;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at the fifty-second session;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

51/210. Measures to eliminate international terrorism

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, by which it adopted the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, and its resolution 50/53 of 11 December 1995,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[76]

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Deeply disturbed by the persistence of terrorist acts, which have taken place worldwide,

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[69] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/51/33).

[70] Ibid., para. 56.

[71] Ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplememt No. 33* (A/50/33), para. 47.

[72] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/51/33), para. 128.

[73] A/48/573-S/26705 (see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*), A/49/356, A/50/60-S/1995/1 (see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1995*), A/50/423, A/50/361 and A/51/317.

[74] A/50/1011.

[75] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Sixth Committee*, 5th meeting (A/C.6/51/SR.5), and corrigendum.

[76] See resolution 50/6.

Stressing the need further to strengthen international cooperation between States and between international organizations and agencies, regional organizations and arrangements and the United Nations in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed,

Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies in combating international terrorism,

Noting, in this context, all regional and international efforts to combat international terrorism, including those of the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the countries of the group of seven major industrialized countries and the Russian Federation,

Taking note of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on educational activities under the project entitled "Towards a culture of peace",[77]

Recalling that in the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism the General Assembly encouraged States to review urgently the scope of the existing international legal provisions on the prevention, repression and elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with the aim of ensuring that there was a comprehensive legal framework covering all aspects of the matter,

Bearing in mind the possibility of considering in the future the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism,

Noting that terrorist attacks by means of bombs, explosives or other incendiary or lethal devices have become increasingly widespread, and stressing the need to supplement the existing legal instruments in order to address specifically the problem of terrorist attacks carried out by such means,

Recognizing the need to enhance international cooperation to prevent the use of nuclear materials for terrorist purposes and to develop an appropriate legal instrument,

Recognizing also the need to strengthen international cooperation to prevent the use of chemical and biological materials for terrorist purposes,

Convinced of the need to implement effectively and supplement the provisions of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[78]

I

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed;

2. *Reiterates* that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other nature that may be invoked to justify them;

3. *Calls upon* all States to adopt further measures in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights, to prevent terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism and, to that end, to consider the adoption of measures such as those contained in the official document adopted by the group of seven major industrialized countries and the Russian Federation at the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996,[79] and the plan of action adopted by the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism, held at Lima from 23 to 26 April 1996 under the auspices of the Organization of American States,[80] and in particular calls upon all States:

(*a*) To recommend that relevant security officials undertake consultations to improve the capability of Governments to prevent, investigate and respond to terrorist attacks on public facilities, in particular means of public transport, and to cooperate with other Governments in this respect;

(*b*) To accelerate research and development regarding methods of detection of explosives and other harmful substances that can cause death or injury, undertake consultations on the development of standards for marking explosives in order to identify their origin in post-blast investigations, and promote cooperation and transfer of technology, equipment and related materials, where appropriate;

(*c*) To note the risk of terrorists using electronic or wire communications systems and networks to carry out criminal acts and the need to find means, consistent with national law, to prevent such criminality and to promote cooperation where appropriate;

(*d*) To investigate, when sufficient justification exists according to national laws, and acting within their jurisdiction and through appropriate channels of international cooperation, the abuse of organizations, groups or associations, including those with charitable, social or cultural goals, by terrorists who use them as a cover for their own activities;

(*e*) To develop, if necessary, especially by entering into bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements, mutual legal assistance procedures aimed at facilitating and speeding investigations and collecting evidence, as well as cooperation between law enforcement agencies in order to detect and prevent terrorist acts;

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[77] A/51/395, annex.

[78] A/51/336 and Add.1.

[79] A/51/261, annex.

[80] See A/51/336, para. 57.

(f) To take steps to prevent and counteract, through appropriate domestic measures, the financing of terrorists and terrorist organizations, whether such financing is direct or indirect through organizations which also have or claim to have charitable, social or cultural goals or which are also engaged in unlawful activities such as illicit arms trafficking, drug dealing and racketeering, including the exploitation of persons for purposes of funding terrorist activities, and in particular to consider, where appropriate, adopting regulatory measures to prevent and counteract movements of funds suspected to be intended for terrorist purposes without impeding in any way the freedom of legitimate capital movements and to intensify the exchange of information concerning international movements of such funds;

4. *Also calls upon* all States, with the aim of enhancing the efficient implementation of relevant legal instruments, to intensify, as and where appropriate, the exchange of information on facts related to terrorism and, in so doing, to avoid the dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information;

5. *Reiterates its call* upon States to refrain from financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities;

6. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft,[81] signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft,[82] signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation,[83] concluded at Montreal on 23 September 1971, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents,[84] adopted in New York on 14 December 1973, the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages,[85] adopted in New York on 17 December 1979, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material,[86] signed at Vienna on 3 March 1980, the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation,[87] signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation,[88] done at Rome on 10 March 1988, the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf,[89] done at Rome on 10 March 1988, and the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection,[90] done at Montreal on 1 March 1991, and calls upon all States to enact, as appropriate, domestic legislation necessary to implement the provisions of those Conventions and Protocols, to ensure that the jurisdiction of their courts enables them to bring to trial the perpetrators of terrorist acts and to provide support and assistance to other Governments for those purposes;

II

7. *Reaffirms* the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism contained in the annex to resolution 49/60;

8. *Approves* the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

III

9. *Decides* to establish an Ad Hoc Committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings and, subsequently, an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, to supplement related existing international instruments, and thereafter to address means of further developing a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism;

10. *Decides also* that the Ad Hoc Committee will meet from 24 February to 7 March 1997 to prepare the text of a draft international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings, and recommends that work continue during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly from 22 September to 3 October 1997 in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work;

12. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress made towards the elaboration of the draft convention;

13. *Recommends* that the Ad Hoc Committee be convened in 1998 to continue its work as referred to in paragraph 9 above;

IV

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

86th plenary meeting
17 December 1996

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[81] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 704, No. 10106.

[82] Ibid., vol. 860, No. 12325.

[83] Ibid., vol. 974, No. 14118.

[84] Ibid., vol. 1035, No. 15410.

[85] Resolution 34/146, annex.

[86] United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 1456, No. 24631.

[87] International Civil Aviation Organization, document DOC 9518.

[88] International Maritime Organization, document SUA/CONF/15/Rev.1.

[89] Ibid., document SUA/CONF/16/Rev.2.

[90] S/22393, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth year, Supplement for January, February and March 1991*.

ANNEX

Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,[76]

Deeply disturbed by the worldwide persistence of acts of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, which endanger or take innocent lives, have a deleterious effect on international relations and may jeopardize the security of States,

Underlining the importance of States developing extradition agreements or arrangements as necessary in order to ensure that those responsible for terrorist acts are brought to justice,

Noting that the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[91] done at Geneva on 28 July 1951, does not provide a basis for the protection of perpetrators of terrorist acts, noting also in this context articles 1, 2, 32 and 33 of the Convention, and emphasizing in this regard the need for States parties to ensure the proper application of the Convention,

Stressing the importance of full compliance by States with their obligations under the provisions of the 1951 Convention[91] and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees,[92] including the principle of non-refoulement of refugees to places where their life or freedom would be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion, and affirming that the present Declaration does not affect the protection afforded under the terms of the Convention and Protocol and other provisions of international law,

Recalling article 4 of the Declaration on Territorial Asylum adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 2312 (XXII) of 14 December 1967,

Stressing the need further to strengthen international cooperation between States in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Solemnly declares the following:

1. The States Members of the United Nations solemnly reaffirm their unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed, including those which jeopardize friendly relations among States and peoples and threaten the territorial integrity and security of States;

2. The States Members of the United Nations reaffirm that acts, methods and practices of terrorism are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations; they declare that knowingly financing, planning and inciting terrorist acts are also contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

3. The States Members of the United Nations reaffirm that States should take appropriate measures in conformity with the relevant provisions of national and international law, including international standards of human rights, before granting refugee status, for the purpose of ensuring that the asylum-seeker has not participated in terrorist acts, considering in this regard relevant information as to whether the asylum-seeker is subject to investigation for or is charged with or has been convicted of offences connected with terrorism and, after granting refugee status, for the purpose of ensuring that that status is not used for the purpose of preparing or organizing terrorist acts intended to be committed against other States or their citizens;

4. The States Members of the United Nations emphasize that asylum-seekers who are awaiting the processing of their asylum applications may not thereby avoid prosecution for terrorist acts;

5. The States Members of the United Nations reaffirm the importance of ensuring effective cooperation between Member States so that those who have participated in terrorist acts, including their financing, planning or incitement, are brought to justice; they stress their commitment, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights, to work together to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism and to take all appropriate steps under their domestic laws either to extradite terrorists or to submit the cases to their competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution;

6. In this context, and while recognizing the sovereign rights of States in extradition matters, States are encouraged, when concluding or applying extradition agreements, not to regard as political offences excluded from the scope of those agreements offences connected with terrorism which endanger or represent a physical threat to the safety and security of persons, whatever the motives which may be invoked to justify them;

7. States are also encouraged, even in the absence of a treaty, to consider facilitating the extradition of persons suspected of having committed terrorist acts, insofar as their national laws permit;

8. The States Members of the United Nations emphasize the importance of taking steps to share expertise and information about terrorists, their movements, their support and their weapons and to share information regarding the investigation and prosecution of terrorist acts.

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[91] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[92] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

ANNEX I

ALLOCATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Plenary meetings

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Portugal (item 1).

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation (item 2).

3. Credentials of representatives to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly (item 3):

   (*a*) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (*b*) Report of the Credentials Committee.

4. Election of the President of the General Assembly (item 4).

5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees (item 5).

6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (item 6).

7. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations (item 7).

8. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee (item 8).

9. General debate (item 9).

10. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (item 10).

11. Report of the Security Council (item 11).

12. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I, II, III, IV, V (sections A and F), VI and VII] (item 12).

13. Report of the International Court of Justice (item 13).

14. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (item 14).

15. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs (item 15):

   (*a*) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council;

   (*b*) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council;

   (*c*) Election of five members of the International Court of Justice.

16. Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (item 16).

17. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections (item 17):

   (*a*) Election of the members of the International Law Commission;

   (*b*) Election of twenty members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

   (*c*) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

18. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (item 18):

   (*g*) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences;

   (*h*) Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit;

(*i*) Confirmation of the appointment of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

19. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 19).

20. Admission of new Members to the United Nations (item 20).

21. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (item 21):

    (*a*) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

    (*b*) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions;

    (*c*) Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan;

    (*d*) Assistance to the Palestinian people.

22. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (item 22).

23. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (item 23).

24. Law of the sea (item 24):

    (*a*) Law of the sea;

    (*b*) Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

    (*c*) Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas; unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas; and fisheries by-catch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources.

25. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (item 25).

26. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (item 26).

27. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (item 27).

28. Universal Congress on the Panama Canal (item 28).

29. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (item 29).

30. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States (item 30).

31. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (item 31).

32. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (item 32).

33. The situation in the Middle East (item 33).

34. Assistance in mine clearance (item 34).

35. Question of Palestine (item 35).

36. International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters (item 36).

37. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (item 37).

38. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (item 38).

39. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (item 39).

40. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (item 40).

41. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies (item 41).

42. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (item 42).

43. The situation in Burundi (item 43).

44. Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (item 44).

45. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (item 45).

46. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (item 46).

47. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters (item 47).

48. Strengthening of the United Nations system (item 48).

49. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (item 49).

50. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (item 50).

51. Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986 (item 51).

52. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security (item 52).

53. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait (item 53).

54. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations (item 54).

55. Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development (item 55).

56. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (item 56).

57. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte (item 57).

58. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (item 59).

59. Observer status for the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) in the General Assembly (item 156).

60. Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion (item 159).

61. Observer status for the International Seabed Authority in the General Assembly (item 160).

62. Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (item 161).

63. Proclamation of 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day (item 162).

64. Observer status for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the General Assembly (item 163).

65. Proclamation of 21 November as World Television Day (item 164).

First Committee

(DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE)

1. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament (item 60).

2. Reduction of military budgets (item 61):

   (*a*) Reduction of military budgets;

   (*b*) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures.

3. Question of Antarctica (item 62).

4. The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (item 63).

5. The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields (item 64).

6. Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water (item 65).

7. Implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (item 66).

8. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (item 67).

9. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia (item 68).

10. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (item 69).

11. Prevention of an arms race in outer space (item 70).

12. General and complete disarmament (item 71):

   (*a*) Notification of nuclear tests;

   (*b*) Transparency in armaments;

   (*c*) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes;

   (*d*) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament: report of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament;

   (*e*) Relationship between disarmament and development;

   (*f*) Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms;

   (*g*) Regional disarmament;

   (*h*) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

   (*i*) Nuclear disarmament;

(*j*) Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and of vehicles for their delivery in all its aspects;

(*k*) Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

13. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly (item 72):

(*a*) United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

(*b*) United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services;

(*c*) Regional confidence-building measures;

(*d*) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(*e*) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons.

14. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session (item 73):

(*a*) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

(*b*) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

(*c*) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

(*d*) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

(*e*) Confidence-building measures.

15. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (item 74).

16. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (item 75).

17. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (item 76).

18. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (item 77).

19. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (item 78).

20. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (item 79).

21. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (item 80).

22. Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (item 81).

Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)

1. Effects of atomic radiation (item 82).

2. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 83).

3. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 84).

4. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 85).

5. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 86).

6. Questions relating to information (item 87).

7. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 88).

8. Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination (item 89).

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 90).

10. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapter V (section A)] (item 12).

11. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 91).

12. The situation in the occupied territories of Croatia (item 92).

13. Question of the composition of the relevant organs of the United Nations (item 93).

14. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 19).

15. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (item 49).

Second Committee

(ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE)

1. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I, III, IV, V (sections B to E and H) and VII] (item 12).

2. Macroeconomic policy questions (item 94):

   (*a*) External debt crisis and development;

   (*b*) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries;

   (*c*) Trade and development;

   (*d*) Commodities.

3. Sectoral policy questions (item 95):

   (*a*) Industrial development cooperation;

   (*b*) Food and sustainable agricultural development.

4. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (item 96):

   (*a*) Implementation and follow-up to major consensus agreements on development:

      (i) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries;

      (ii) Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

(*b*) Agenda for development:

  (i) Agenda for development;

  (ii) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

(*c*) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;

(*d*) Population and development;

(*e*) Human settlements;

(*f*) Eradication of poverty;

(*g*) Cultural development.

5. Environment and sustainable development (item 97):

(*a*) Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(*b*) Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

(*c*) Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(*d*) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(*e*) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

(*f*) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

6. Operational activities for development (item 98).

7. Training and research (item 99):

(*a*) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

(*b*) United Nations University.

Third Committee

(SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE)

1. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I to IV, V (sections A and E) and VII] (item 12).

2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (item 100).

3. Crime prevention and criminal justice (item 101).

4. International drug control (item 102).

5. Advancement of women (item 103).

6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (item 104).

7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (item 105).

8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children (item 106).

9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (item 107).

10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (item 108).

11. Right of peoples to self-determination (item 109).

12. Human rights questions (item 110):

    (*a*) Implementation of human rights instruments;

    (*b*) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

    (*c*) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

    (*d*) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

    (*e*) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

13. Question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime (item 158).

Fifth Committee

(ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS)

1. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (item 111):

    (*a*) United Nations;

    (*b*) United Nations Development Programme;

    (*c*) United Nations Children's Fund;

    (*d*) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

    (*e*) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

    (*f*) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

    (*g*) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;

    (*h*) United Nations Population Fund;

    (*i*) United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

    (*j*) Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

    (*k*) United Nations Office for Project Services.

2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (item 112).

3. Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (item 113).

4. Programme planning (item 114).

5. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (item 115).

6. Programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (item 116).

7. Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (item 117).

8. Pattern of conferences (item 118).

9. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (item 119).

10. Human resources management (item 120):

    (*a*) Implementation of the Secretary-General's strategy for the management of the Organization's human resources and other human resources management issues;

    (*b*) Composition of the Secretariat;

    (*c*) Respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and related organizations.

11. United Nations common system (item 121).

12. United Nations pension system (item 122).

13. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (item 123):

    (*a*) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;

    (*b*) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

14. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (item 124).

15. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (item 125):

    (*a*) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;

    (*b*) Other activities.

16. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (item 126).

17. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (item 127).

18. Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (item 128).

19. Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (item 129).

20. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (item 130).

21. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (item 131).

22. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (item 132).

23. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (item 133).

24. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (item 134).

25. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (item 135).

26. Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (item 136).

27. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (item 137).

28. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (item 138).

29. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and

Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (item 139).

30. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (item 140):

    (*a*) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations;

    (*b*) Relocation of Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (*c*) of General Assembly resolution 43/232.

31. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (item 141).

32. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (item 153).

33. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (item 154).

34. Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (item 155).

35. Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (item 157).

36. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I, V (sections E and G) and VII] (item 12).

37. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (item 18):

    (*a*) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

    (*b*) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

    (*c*) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;

    (*d*) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

    (*e*) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal;

    (*f*) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission.

Sixth Committee

(LEGAL COMMITTEE)

1. Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts (item 142).

2. Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives (item 143).

3. Convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses (item 144).

4. United Nations Decade of International Law (item 145).

5. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-eighth session (item 146).

6. Establishment of an international criminal court (item 147).

7. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-ninth session (item 148).

8. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (item 149).

9. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (item 150).

10. Measures to eliminate international terrorism (item 151).

11. Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order (item 152).

12. Human resources management (item 120).

ANNEX II
CHECKLIST OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
51/1	Observer status for the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) in the General Assembly	156	4
51/2	Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	126	278
51/3	Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia	135	279
51/4	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States	22	4
51/5	Universal Congress on the Panama Canal	28	5
51/6	Observer status for the International Seabed Authority in the General Assembly	160	6
51/7	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union	29	6
51/8	International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters	36	6
51/9	Credentials of representatives to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly		
	Resolution A	3 (*b*)	8
	Resolution B	3 (*b*)	8
51/10	Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency	14	8
51/11	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee	23	10
51/12	Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters	129	280
51/13	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations	129 and 140 (*a*)	282
51/14	Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti	134	282
51/15	Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti	157	283
51/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community	25	11
51/17	Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba	27	12
51/18	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference	31	13
51/19	Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic	32	14
51/20	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States	30	15
51/21	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization	26	17

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
51/22	Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion	159	18
51/23	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	35	18
51/24	Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat	35	19
51/25	Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat	35	20
51/26	Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine	35	20
51/27	Jerusalem	33	21
51/28	The Syrian Golan	33	22
51/29	The Middle East peace process	33	22
51/30	Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions		
	A. Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	21 (*b*)	23
	B. Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia	21 (*b*)	25
	C. Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon	21 (*b*)	26
	D. Assistance to Mozambique	21 (*b*)	26
	E. Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti	21 (*b*)	27
	F. Special emergency economic assistance to the Comoros	21 (*b*)	28
	G. Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia	21 (*b*)	29
	H. International assistance to Rwanda for the reintegration of returning refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development	21 (*b*)	30
	I. Emergency assistance to the Sudan	21 (*b*)	31
51/31	Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies	41	32
51/32	Mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s	44	33
51/33	Proclamation of 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day	162	34
51/34	Law of the sea	24 (*a*)	34
51/35	Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks	24 (*b*)	36

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
51/36	Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing; unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction; and fisheries by-catch and discards	24 (*c*)	37
51/37	Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament	60	72
51/38	Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures	61	72
51/39	The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament	63	73
51/40	The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields	64	74
51/41	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East	67	74
51/42	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia	68	75
51/43	Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons	69	76
51/44	Prevention of an arms race in outer space	70	77
51/45	General and complete disarmament		
	A. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee	71	79
	B. The nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas	71	79
	C. Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament	71	80
	D. Relationship between disarmament and development	71	81
	E. Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control	71	81
	F. Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms	71	83
	G. Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons	71	83
	H. Transparency in armaments	71	84
	I. Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament	71	85
	J. Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes	71	86
	K. Regional disarmament	71	87
	L. Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them	71	88
	M. Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons	71	89

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
	N. Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures	71	89
	O. Nuclear disarmament	71	90
	P. Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol	71	92
	Q. Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels	71	92
	R. Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament	71	93
	S. An international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines	71	94
	T. Status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction	71	95
51/46	Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly		
	A. United Nations Disarmament Information Programme	72	95
	B. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific	72	96
	C. Regional confidence-building measures	72	97
	D. Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons	72	98
	E. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa	72	100
	F. United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services	72	100
51/47	Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session		
	A. Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament	73	101
	B. Report of the Disarmament Commission	73	101
	C. Report of the Conference on Disarmament	73	102
51/48	The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East	74	103
51/49	Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	75	104
51/50	Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region	76	105
51/51	Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace	77	106
51/52	Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)	78	107
51/53	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)	79	107
51/54	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction	80	108

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
51/55	The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States	81	109
51/56	Question of Antarctica	62	110
51/57	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	38	39
51/58	The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends	100	182
51/59	Action against corruption	101	182
51/60	United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security	101	184
51/61	United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	101	186
51/62	Measures for prevention of the smuggling of aliens	101	186
51/63	Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity	101	187
51/64	International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking	102	189
51/65	Violence against women migrant workers	103	194
51/66	Traffic in women and girls	103	195
51/67	Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat	103	197
51/68	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	103	198
51/69	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	104	199
51/70	Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States	105	203
51/71	Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa	105	205
51/72	Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	105	206
51/73	Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors	105	206
51/74	New international humanitarian order	105	207
51/75	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	105	208
51/76	The girl child	106	210
51/77	The rights of the child	106	212
51/78	International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	107	218
51/79	Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	108	220

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
51/80	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	108	221
51/81	Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	108	222
51/82	The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination	109	225
51/83	Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	109	225
51/84	Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	109	226
51/85	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	110 (*a*)	227
51/86	Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	110 (*a*)	228
51/87	Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights	110 (*a*)	229
51/88	Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	110 (*a*)	231
51/89	Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification	110 (*b*)	232
51/90	Strengthening of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights	110 (*b*)	233
51/91	Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities	110 (*b*)	234
51/92	Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	110 (*b*)	235
51/93	Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance	110 (*b*)	236
51/94	Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances	110 (*b*)	238
51/95	Follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance	110 (*b*)	239
51/96	Strengthening of the rule of law	110 (*b*)	240
51/97	Human rights and extreme poverty	110 (*b*)	241
51/98	Situation of human rights in Cambodia	110 (*b*)	242
51/99	Right to development	110 (*b*)	244
51/100	Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights	110 (*b*)	246
51/101	Culture of peace	110 (*b*)	247
51/102	Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights	110 (*b*)	247
51/103	Human rights and unilateral coercive measures	110 (*b*)	249
51/104	United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and public information activities in the field of human rights	110 (*b*)	250

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
51/105	Strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity	110 (*b*)	251
51/106	Situation of human rights in Iraq	110 (*c*)	253
51/107	Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	110 (*c*)	254
51/108	Situation of human rights in Afghanistan	110 (*c*)	256
51/109	Situation of human rights in Nigeria	110 (*c*)	257
51/110	Human rights in Haiti	110 (*c*)	258
51/111	Situation of human rights in Kosovo	110 (*c*)	259
51/112	Situation of human rights in the Sudan	110 (*c*)	260
51/113	Situation of human rights in Cuba	110 (*c*)	263
51/114	Situation of human rights in Rwanda	110 (*c*)	263
51/115	Rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia	110 (*c*)	266
51/116	Situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)	110 (*c*)	267
51/117	Situation of human rights in Myanmar	110 (*c*)	271
51/118	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action	110 (*d*)	273
51/119	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	110 (*e*)	274
51/120	Question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime	158	275
51/121	Effects of atomic radiation	82	114
51/122	Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries	83	114
51/123	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space	83	115
51/124	Assistance to Palestine refugees	84	119
51/125	Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	84	120
51/126	Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities	84	120
51/127	Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees	84	121
51/128	Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	84	121
51/129	Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues	84	123

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
51/130	University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees	84	123
51/131	Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories	85	124
51/132	Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories	85	125
51/133	Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan	85	125
51/134	Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem	85	126
51/135	The occupied Syrian Golan	85	127
51/136	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects	86	128
51/137	Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel	86	128
51/138	Questions relating to information		
	A. Information in the service of humanity	87	129
	B. United Nations public information policies and activities	87	130
51/139	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	88	132
51/140	Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	89 and 19	133
51/141	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	90 and 12	134
51/142	Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	91	136
51/143	Question of Western Sahara	19	136
51/144	Question of New Caledonia	19	137
51/145	Question of Tokelau	19	138
51/146	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	19	40
51/147	Dissemination of information on decolonization	19	42
51/148	Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration	161	43
51/149	Assistance in mine clearance	34	43
51/150	Assistance to the Palestinian people	21 (*d*)	45

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
51/151	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity	42	46
51/152	Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina	153	285
51/153	Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium	154	286
51/154	Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force	155	287
51/155	Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts	142	326
51/156	Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives	143	326
51/157	United Nations Decade of International Law	145	327
51/158	Electronic treaty database	145	331
51/159	Action to be taken in 1999 dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law	145	332
51/160	Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-eighth session	146	333
51/161	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-ninth session	148	334
51/162	Model Law on Electronic Commerce adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	148	336
51/163	Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country	149	340
51/164	Enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries	94	142
51/165	Net flows and transfer of resources between developing and developed countries	94	144
51/166	Global financial integration and strengthening collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions	94	145
51/167	International trade and development	94	146
51/168	Transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours	94	149
51/169	Commodities	94	150
51/170	Industrial development cooperation	95	151
51/171	Food and sustainable agricultural development	95	153
51/172	Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system	96	153

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
51/173	Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade	96 (*a*)	154
51/174	Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership	96 (*b*)	155
51/175	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy	96 (*c*)	155
51/176	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	96 (*d*)	156
51/177	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)	96 (*e*)	157
51/178	First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty	96 (*f*)	159
51/179	Report of the World Commission on Culture and Development	96 (*g*)	162
51/180	Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa	97 (*a*)	163
51/181	Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21	97 (*b*)	164
51/182	Convention on Biological Diversity	97 (*c*)	166
51/183	Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	97 (*d*)	167
51/184	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind	97 (*e*)	169
51/185	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction	97 (*f*)	170
51/186	Progress at mid-decade on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children	98	171
51/187	United Nations University	99	173
51/188	United Nations Institute for Training and Research	99	173
51/189	Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	12	174
51/190	Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources	12	176
51/191	United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions	12	176
51/192	Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Children's Fund	98	49
51/193	Report of the Security Council	11	49

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
51/194	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations	21 (*a*)	50
51/195	Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security		
	A. Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan	21 (*c*) and 39	52
	B. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security	21 (*c*) and 39	53
51/196	The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti	37	56
51/197	The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development	40	57
51/198	United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala	40	60
51/199	United Nations Office of Verification in El Salvador	40	61
51/200	Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations	16	62
51/201	Tribute to Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations	16	62
51/202	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development	45	62
51/203	The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina	56	65
51/204	Observer status for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the General Assembly	163	68
51/205	Proclamation of 21 November as World Television Day	164	68
51/206	Convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses	144	341
51/207	Establishment of an international criminal court	147	342
51/208	Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions	150	343
51/209	Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	150	345
51/210	Measures to eliminate international terrorism	151	346
51/211	Pattern of conferences		
	Resolution A	118	288
	Resolution B	118	289
	Resolution C	118	290

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Page*
	Resolution D	118	291
	Resolution E	118	291
51/212	Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations	119	291
51/213	Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission	124	291
51/214	Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991	137	292
51/215	Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994	139	294
51/216	United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission	121	295
51/217	United Nations pension system	122	302
51/218	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations		
	Resolution A	140	307
	Resolution B	140	308
	Resolution C	140	308
	Resolution D	140	309
51/219	Programme planning	114	309
51/220	Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1998-1999	112	317
51/221	Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997		
	Resolution A	116	318
	Resolution B	116	319
51/222	Programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997		
	A. Revised budget appropriations for the biennium 1996-1997	116	320
	B. Revised income estimates for the biennium 1996-1997	116	323
	C. Financing of appropriations for the year 1997	116	324